

Comedian talks to Pope posing as a Canadian

MONTREAL (R) — Quebec comedian said he was able to talk to Pope John Paul II for 10 minutes. The comedian, Pierre Brassard, said he was posing as a Canadian and was able to talk to the Pope for 10 minutes. He said the Pope was very friendly and that he was very impressed by the Pope's personality.

UPI violated human rights by firing Israeli judge rules

Dentist fined refusing to treat HIV patient

### Hebron residents protest curfew

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (AP) — The army on Saturday briefly lifted a curfew that was imposed on this town's 110,000 Palestinian residents, apparently so 450 Jewish settlers could celebrate the Passover holiday without fear of possible attack. Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe said the restrictions heightened resentment of the settlers in the already tense town. "The curfew on Hebron is not for security reasons, but to make sure that several hundred Jews living in the city will enjoy their holiday," Mr. Natshe said. "The Israeli government ... does not understand that it cannot punish a whole city just because of a few settler families." The army imposed the curfew at 3 a.m. Friday, barring all Palestinians in Hebron from leaving their homes. The restrictions were lifted 32 hours later, at 11 a.m. Saturday, but troops announced over loudspeakers that the ban was to be reimposed by 6 p.m. Saturday. The army said in a statement that the curfew was imposed for "security" reasons, but did not elaborate. The curfew coincided with the start Friday of the weeklong Passover holiday.

### Hrawl in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi paid an unannounced one-day visit Saturday to meet with his Syrian counterpart, Hafez Al Assad. The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said the two men discussed the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations during five hours of talks. No further details were given. The Lebanese leader periodically visits Syria for consultations.

### French aid headed for Gaza

PORT SAID, Egypt (R) — A ship carrying French medical and other humanitarian aid bound for the Palestinian self-rule authority arrived in Port Said in Egypt on Saturday. The cargo, a donation from the French aid agency Equilibre, includes 12 mobile medical units and eight trucks with drugs and other medical equipment worth 2.9 million francs (\$600,000). Egyptian port authorities agreed to waive taxes on the cargo, which Equilibre is calling its "peace caravan." Writer Marek Halpern, who is organizing the operation, told Reuters the aim was to help Yasser Arafat convince the Palestinians that peace was worth it.

### Turkish banks in Germany firebombed

COLOGNE (AP) — Five Turkish banks were hit with firebombs in nearly simultaneous attacks before dawn Saturday in downtown Cologne, police said. Six suspects, all Turkish nationals, were arrested in the latest in an upsurge of attacks on Turkish targets in Germany since Turkey's offensive against Kurdish rebel bases in northern Iraq, they added. Police said the firebombs were thrown at the front bank buildings in this western city at nearly the same moment, though none caused any major damage as the banks were protected with metal shutters.

### Iran sets up rights commission

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has set up an international Islamic human rights commission, the chief of the judiciary said Saturday. Tehran Television quoted Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi as saying the commission would monitor human rights around the world according to Islamic principles and cooperate with other rights organizations. The broadcast gave no further details on the commission, which appeared to be an effort by Tehran to counter accusations of rights abuses inside Iran.

### Nasreen trial postponed by month

DHAKA (AP) — The trial of feminist author Taslima Nasreen for allegedly blaspheming Islam was postponed on Saturday by a month. A Dhaka magistrate accepted her attorney's plea that there was no proper government sanction to proceed with the cases. "A junior official who gave the approval for the trial was not authorized to do so," said Kamal Hussein, Ms. Nasreen's attorney. Ms. Nasreen is living in a self-imposed exile in Sweden since last August to escape death threats from Muslim fundamentalists who offered a reward of \$5,000 to anyone who kills her.

### Zhirinovskiy will liberate Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said on Saturday he would send troops to liberate Cyprus from Turkish occupation if he won Russia's 1996 presidential election. "If I am elected and if the government of Cyprus asked me to send Russian troops, I would," Mr. Zhirinovskiy said after arriving in the divided Mediterranean island in a three-day private visit.

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## Iraq to reject U.N. oil offer

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq will reject a new United Nations plan for Baghdad to sell \$2 billion worth of oil for humanitarian purposes, Parliamentary Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh said on Saturday.

"The voice of the masses expresses the Iraqi attitude ... it is the rejection of this unfair resolution," Mr. Saleh told reporters at an anti-American demonstration in the heart of the capital Baghdad.

His remarks were the clearest rejection by Iraqi officials of the plan which was adopted unanimously by the U.N. Security Council on Friday and immediately condemned by Iraqi leaders.

Western diplomats in Baghdad expected a formal rejection after Iraqi leaders issued a statement condemning the resolution as a violation of sovereignty after a joint meeting on Friday of the Revolutionary Command Council and the ruling Baath Party chaired by President Saddam Hussein.

"We believe the Security Council has to respect its own resolutions, 687 and paragraph 22 ... what is needed is the fair implementation of this paragraph," said Mr. Saleh at the rally, where about 5,000 Iraqis shouted slogans against the proposal.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 687, passed after Iraq invaded Kuwait, specified trade sanctions. Paragraph 22 linked the lifting of an oil embargo with the dismantling of Iraqi programmes to build weapons of mass destruction.

U.N. inspector Rolf Ekeus said last week there were still doubts over Iraq's biological weapons programmes. Iraq has dismissed this as part of a U.S.-led political conspiracy.

Iraq's rejection of the offer will likely sharpen rifts in the international community on how to deal with Baghdad. But it will, at least in the short term, boost oil markets.

Analysts had expected prices to tumble by up to \$1 a barrel if Iraq agreed to the U.S. and British-proposed deal and pumped over 700,000 barrels of oil per day onto world markets.

Mr. Saleh said Iraq also rejected the terms under which humanitarian supplies to its people would be monitored, and objected to funds from its oil sales being directed to autonomous Kurdish areas in northern Iraq. The resolution supercedes an earlier 1991 motion, which Iraq has consistently rejected

on much the same grounds. It would allow Iraq to sell up to \$2 billion of oil over 180 days, renewable for another six months.

Out of each \$1 billion worth of oil sold, between \$650 million and \$680 million would go to buy humanitarian supplies but between \$130 million and \$150 million of this would be directly earmarked for a U.N. programme to assist the Kurds of northern Iraq, now subjected to a government blockade.

Another \$300 million would be creamed off the top of each \$1 billion for a U.N. Gulf war reparations fund. The balance would meet other U.N. costs stemming from the war.

Leaders of the ruling Baath Party also unleashed a verbal attack on the Clinton administration at Saturday's rallies.

"We need to fight the holy war against satan America until our victory," said Abdul Gani Abdul Ghafoor, chief of the Baghdad chapter of the ruling party.

"The new resolution is worse and more dangerous than previous resolutions," the Revolutionary Command Council said in its statement.

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## Jordan, Oman and Egypt welcome U.N. oil plan for Iraq

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Saturday described as "positive" Friday's U.N. Security Council decision to allow Iraq a limited oil sale but said the resolution could not be an alternative to the complete lifting of the trade sanctions against Iraq.

"The resolution is not an alternative to lifting the sanctions, but it is an advanced step in that direction," Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told the Jordan Times.

As such, (the resolution) should be viewed positively," said Mr. Kabariti, who met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Saturday.

During a phone call with Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf Ben Alawi Saturday, Mr. Kabariti also expressed appreciation of the role Oman played in introducing "positive amendments" to Security Council Resolution

986, which was adopted unanimously by the council. Oman, a member of the Security Council, sponsored the resolution along with the United States, Britain, Argentina and Rwanda.

The Resolution allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food, medicine and other supplies. Omani Information Minister Abdul Aziz Al Rawas was on Saturday quoted as appealing to Iraq to accept the resolution "because it will open the way for (Iraq) to regain international legality."

He said his country sponsored the resolution in order to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Agence France Presse quoted Mr. Rawas as saying the resolution would alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people and confirm Iraq's territorial integrity.

The resolution was also welcomed by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who said the decision was a step towards the total lifting of the

sanctions on Iraq. But Iraq on Saturday rejected the plan, with the ruling Revolutionary Command Council saying in a statement that "the new resolution is worse and more dangerous than previous resolutions."

### NPT review

Mr. Kabariti leaves Amman for New York today to take part in U.N. discussions over the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Mr. Kabariti told the Jordan Times the Kingdom supports the treaty and its objective but he stressed the need for international guarantees to help countries neighbouring Israel, including Jordan, against potential nuclear threats from the Jewish state's nuclear reactors.

The foreign minister said Jordan believes Israel must join the NPT, provide a timetable for doing so or

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## PNA reaffirms pledge to prevent anti-Israeli attacks

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The Palestinian self-rule government on Saturday pledged its "absolute commitment" to preventing attacks against Israelis and disarming militants.

A Palestinian military tribunal, meanwhile, sentenced a follower of the Islamic Jihad group to 15 years in prison while police released 15 other suspected militants, reducing the total number still in jail to 125.

Mr. Arafat had ordered the trials and arrests after two suicide bombings last Sunday by the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups in which eight people were killed.

In response, Israel warned it would not pull troops out of West Bank towns, as promised in the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, until PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat did more to foil attacks on Israelis.

In their weekly meeting Saturday, Palestinian cabinet ministers said they were committed to the autonomy agreement with Israel, and called on Israel to fulfill its

promises.

The chief Palestinian negotiator with Israel, Nabil Shaath, addressed Israeli security concerns when he briefed reporters after Saturday's cabinet meeting.

"We emphasise our absolute commitment to the laws on carrying arms and to ending all violent activities against Palestinians and Israelis as a cornerstone of our security policy in this coming period," Dr. Shaath said.

Palestinian officials have said they would soon begin confiscating illegal arms, with May 11 as a deadline for surrendering unregistered weapons.

Dr. Shaath said Saturday that the crackdown should not be seen as an attempt to silence non-violent dissent.

"Every political force here is invited to participate in the national dialogue and to participate in decision-making and to have absolute freedom of political discourse," he said.

Mr. Arafat said meanwhile he would not tolerate armed opposition in self-rule areas,

but he affirmed the right of Islamists to criticise his accord with Israel, another PLO official said.

Tayeab Abdul Rahim, general secretary of the PNA, quoted Mr. Arafat as saying he would not allow "any activities by Palestinian parties which would endanger the PLO-Israel accords, but they have the right to oppose through democratic means only."

Tensions between the PLO and militant groups have been fuelled in recent weeks by the mysterious bombing death of a top Hamas guerrilla and the double suicide bombings.

"We will punish anyone who violates the law and who violates our commitments through illegal activities and practices," Mr. Abdul Rahim said.

During the PNA's weekly meeting on Saturday, Arafat stressed that all parties have to respect the agreements signed between the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people,

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### Abul Ragheb heads for Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb on Saturday left for Bahrain to head the Jordanian side to the meetings of the Jordanian-Bahraini ministerial committee which will convene in Manama Sunday. The two sides will discuss during their three-day meetings scopes of bilateral cooperation, particularly in economic and commercial fields and to update the trade protocol signed in 1975 to make it meet the new regional and international changes and developments. The two sides will also discuss means to promote cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries and support efforts aiming to launch joint ventures among a host of other issues. While in Bahrain, Mr. Abul Ragheb will open the first Jordanian industrial fair in Manama on Monday. The visit comes at an invitation by the Bahraini minister of trade and agriculture, Habib Ahmad Qassem.



His Majesty King Hussein is greeted upon his return home Saturday by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

## King returns home, calls on Jordanians to preserve unity

### HM describes outcome of visits as highly successful

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home on Saturday after a foreign visit and emphasized the need for Jordanians to safeguard national unity, more than at any time in the past so that the process of construction could go ahead uninterrupted.

Speaking upon his return to Amman following visits to France, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, King Hussein said: "We should work hand in hand and with one heart to make this country a model for others."

"We should not infringe on democracy in the name of

democracy so as not to drive away people from the path of democracy," King Hussein added.

Referring to the violent incidents at the University of Jordan in the past week, the King said: "A quarrel or dispute between two of our students should remain as an internal matter that can be settled between the two of them. But the quarrel was reported in the press as if there has been a major issue between two segments of the Jordanian society. Quarrels of this proportion can only cause scandals and the time has come to put an end to them."

Urging Jordanians to make their country a model for others in terms of democracy and respect of human rights, the King said that everyone had to work for the interest and prosperity of Jordan.

"We must avoid attempts at outbidding one another because none can outbid us at the pan-Arab or domestic fronts," the King added.

King Hussein also urged Jordanian professional associations members to work towards upgrading the level and performance of their associations.

"If there is (a political) association for this country, it is the Lower House of Parliament, which represents all

the people. I, as head of the three authorities in Jordan, consider myself head of this association," King Hussein said.

In reply to a question about the outcome of his visits, the King said they were successful.

"My visits achieved major success, and I held contacts with sectors of people at the highest responsible levels," the King said.

On his visit to France, he said: "French President Francois Mitterrand is an old and dear friend and is currently serving the last term of his

term. I, as head of the three authorities in Jordan, consider myself head of this association," King Hussein said.

Mr. Srour said, that such people would have no chance "because we are all one family."

Jafar Shami, representing Salt residents, said that efforts by the government to amend the situation were appreciated. But "we can never accept humiliation," he said, to loud cheers from the gathering.

"We the people of Salt are the enemies of anyone who wants to divide our national unity and we accept what the government is doing and its efforts to implement law and justice," Mr. Shami said. However, more than 60

started by a fight between two students and developed into a bigger fight between students of Circassian and Salt origin, leaving dozens of students injured.

Attempts by community leaders to calm the situation collapsed when clashes occurred on Wednesday. Three students were injured.

Mr. Lawzi, addressing more than 700 people who gathered for the meeting, said that two separate committees were investigating the incident: one appointed by the government and the other by the university administration.

Mr. Srour also addressed the gathering and said that there were certain people who "will be happy any time

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## Kurd rebels ambush Turkish troops; Ciller heads for U.S.

ANKARA (Agencies) — Kurdish rebels killed 11 Turkish soldiers in an ambush on the mountainous border of southeast Turkey, security officials said on Saturday as Prime Minister Tansu Ciller left for a high-profile visit to the United States.

Eight soldiers were wounded in the ambush, believed to be the worst single attack on the army since Turkey sent some 35,000 troops into northern Iraq on March 20 to wipe out bases of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

PKK rebels attacked the soldiers in the Cizre town area near the border with Iraq and Syria, the officials told reporters.

Further north in the Tunceli province military sources reported heavy fighting in seven districts with the army

using 10 Cobra and Sikorski helicopters.

Troops were fighting about 150 PKK rebels in Kutadere district and had killed three, the sources said. Trucks had brought in about 1,500 army reinforcements.

In other clashes, nine PKK rebels were killed near Mutki town in the southeastern province of Bitlis and seven were captured in the town of Silvan, the emergency government's office said, quoted by the official Anatolian news agency.

The ambush was in the Hamam Valley about one kilometre south of the Turkish border. Military officials now report 67 soldiers killed during the offensive. The rebel death toll was 446.

In southeastern Turkey — where rebels are fighting for autonomy — Turkish troops

killed nine Kurdish guerrillas in the Bitlis province, the regional governor's office announced.

More than 15,000 people have died in fighting between rebels and government forces since 1984.

Ms. Ciller will meet President Bill Clinton in the White House on Wednesday. She will also hold numerous interviews with U.S. media in an effort to improve Turkey's image — under fire even before the Iraqi incursion with the jailing of Kurdish opponents of the government, including six parliament members.

The PKK launched its deadly ambush on the same day as their leader Abdullah Ocalan, who is based in Lebanon and Syria, issued a



## Rabbani forces plan decisive war against Taliban in Farah

SHINDAND, Afghanistan (AFP) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani's troops are poised for an imminent offensive against the armed Taliban religious movement in the western Farah province, officials said.

"We are going to attack the Taliban sometime in the next few days," vowed a pro-Rabbani commander Najim Khan, two days after Mr. Rabbani's visit to the frontlines east of Shindand military airbase.

A decisive battle appears to be brewing on this frontline, located in the mountains 50-60 kilometres east of the strategic Shindand airbase, an AFP correspondent in the area observed.

Jet strikes are being launched daily in order to soften up the Taliban.

Mr. Rabbani, in the company of his Jamiat-e-Islami faction ally, Herat Provincial governor Ismael Khan, flew by military helicopter on Wednesday from Shindand to a desert base where his troops were being marshalled for the attack.

In a morale-boosting speech to assembled fighters, Mr. Rabbani denounced the recently emerged Taliban as agents of foreign powers, but he did not name the sponsors.

Although Ismael Khan is both governor of Herat and boss of several neighbouring provinces, his armed forces were not able to check the advance of the Taliban, who about six weeks ago pushed into Farah province threatening, though not capturing, Shindand airbase.

To stop the Taliban, Mr. Rabbani's main ally, ex-Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud, was called upon to urgently dispatch some 2,000 of his best fighters to Farah, where they have joined Ismael Khan's men

and others on the frontline.

"My programme is to push the Taliban back to Kandahar," said Najim Khan, who commands Mr. Masoud's own special corps of shock troops.

The Taliban, who started movement in the southern capital Kandahar several months ago, successfully thrust in two directions, north to Kabul and west to Farah, capturing nine provincial capitals in just over six weeks.

Also present with Mr. Rabbani during his visit to the Farah front were the commanders and men from several factions previously based in Kandahar, including Rasol Sayyaf's Ittihad-e-Islami and Pir Sayed Ahmad Gailani's Mahab-e-Milli, who are now keen to regain their lost territory and prestige.

In addition to the Sukhoi SU-22 jets seen taking off from Shindand for bombing attacks against the Taliban, pro-Rabbani troops were observed firing Russian-made howitzers and many salvos of long-range rockets against their rivals.

Frontline troops were resupplied with Kalashnikov ammunition and anti-tank rockets Friday, as well as Chinese-made rockets which can be launched against a rock and fired without a launching device, just a simple battery.

Reports reaching Najim Khan indicated that the Taliban have been bringing up reinforcements, either to defend their line or to make an attack themselves. In either case, pro-Rabbani troops are confident of a battle-field success.

"The enemy is very weak. They are bringing untrained recruits to the frontline where they have no chance against us," commented Najim Khan.

## At least 44 killed when train hit bus in Egypt

QUWEISNA, Egypt (R) — At least 44 people were killed and 45 injured on Saturday when a mainline Egyptian train smashed into a bus packed with textile workers on their way to a Nile Delta factory, a police general said.

The wreckage of the bus, mixed up with shoes and clothing, was spread over 200 metres of track near a level crossing on the outskirts of the delta town of Quweisna, 55 kilometres north of the capital Cairo.

"It was horrible. The bus started moving and for the next few seconds all I saw was my friends scattered all over the line," said Ghada Mohammad, 25, one of the survivors.

"All the workers were shouting 'there's a train coming. There's a train coming' but it was too late," added Sanaa Arafat Mohammad, 23, another survivor.

"The next thing I knew I was flying up in the air and there were bodies everywhere," she told Reuters at Quweisna hospital, where most of the dead and injured were taken.

Police Major-General Mohammad Khidir, assistant interior minister for the central Delta region, told reporters that the 44 confirmed dead included at least eight travelling on the roof of the train — a common practice in Egypt.

Ms. Mohammad and other

witnesses said two trains had been approaching the level crossing at about the same time, 6:50 a.m. (0450 GMT). When the first had gone, the bus driver decided to drive on and the second train hit the bus smack in the side.

Security sources in Menaia province had earlier given a death toll of 70.

The bus belonged to the Misr Menoufia Spinning and Weaving Company and had collected workers from the nearby town of Shibin Al-Kaym to take them to the factory in Quweisna.

The train, taking passengers to Cairo from the Nile Delta town of Tanta, was undamaged and later went on to Cairo, railway officials in Cairo said.

Distraught peasants from the villages came to Quweisna hospital carrying white shrouds for their sons and daughters.

But many of the bodies were so fragmented that the hospital authorities were having trouble piecing them together. At least seven of the bodies could not be identified.

Gen. Khidir said bus driver Ibrahim Faragallah, who died instantly, was clearly to blame for the disaster.

"The bus shouldn't have been carrying so many people, either," he added. "It had a limit of 72 people but it seems it had more than 70 aboard."



RIOTS IN GREECE: A riot policeman kicks a young demonstrator during heavy clashes between anarchists and police in central Athens. The riots started during a demonstration by some 200 anarchists following the stabbing of one of their friends a few days ago by a young fascist (AFP photo)

## Hank Brown sees Gaza as key to Mideast peace

CAIRO (AP) — The key to pushing forward the Mideast peace process lies in solving the overwhelming problems facing the Gaza Strip, the chairman of a U.S. Senate sub-committee on the Middle East said Saturday.

Sen. Hank Brown of Colorado made the remark after meeting with President Hosni Mubarak. A Mubarak aide said the talks also touched on nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty but denied Washington was pressuring Egypt to vote for indefinite renewal of the pact.

Mr. Brown, a Republican who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on the Middle East, said he and Mr. Mubarak agreed solving Gaza's myriad problems was the first step to achieving peace in the volatile region.

"It is critical to find jobs and opportunities for Palesti-

nians in the Gaza Strip," he said. "Progress there will be the key toward further progress in other negotiations."

He also said that Israel's sealing off of the Gaza Strip, which resulted from attacks on Israelis, contributed to anger at Israel and more assaults by Palestinian groups opposed to the peace process.

Mr. Brown, who visited Syria on Thursday, was asked about the status of peace talks between the Syrians and Israelis, and said he believed achieving stability in Gaza also could push forward Syrian-Israeli talks.

Mr. Brown said Mr. Mubarak and he did not talk directly about the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but Osama Al-Baz, the president's chief political adviser, said the two men touched on the subject.

Mr. Brown noted that Egypt's attempt to get all countries to back renewal of the 25-year-old pact was "worthwhile."

Relations between the United States and Egypt have been strained by Mr. Mubarak's insistence that his government would not back renewal of the treaty unless Israel signs the anti-nuclear convention for the first time. The United States is pushing for an indefinite renewal of the treaty.

Asked if he thought Israel should sign the treaty, Mr. Brown said only "I believe all countries should sign."

Israel, which is believed to have a nuclear arsenal of up to 300 warheads, has refused to sign. It has never admitted to having nuclear weapons.

Dr. Baz, asked if Washington was pressuring to change its stand on the path, said: "The U.S. has not exerted or attempted to exert any pressure on us."

He added that Egypt has not decided how it will vote when the treaty comes up for renewal before the United Nations next week.

"We are giving Israel the full opportunity to move, to understand, and then we should evaluate positively... and then we will decide which way to vote," he said.

Dr. Baz insisted that Egypt's stand was not aimed at Israel alone but at convincing all nations to sign the anti-nuclear treaty. But he said that Israel's nuclear weapons programme could lead to a broad arms race.

"This requires Israel to think of phasing out its nuclear programme because the existence of a nuclear programme in any state would encourage others to follow suit," he said. "This will bring about the danger of having a nuclear arms race."

Police refused to allow investigators onto the scene, saying the situation was not safe.

The villages of southern Egypt are known for long-lasting blood feuds between rival clans.

## Militants kill council employee in south Egypt

MINYA, Egypt (AFP) — Islamic militants shot dead a town council employee in the troubled Minya region of southern Egypt Saturday, police said.

Reda Amin Khalil, 40, was killed as he was travelling to work on his bicycle from Manshet Al-Magbalka village to Mallawi, some 300 kilometres south of Cairo.

Police said the gunman, who suspected him of being an informer, fled after attacking the official as he cycled across a bridge.

Khalil's death raised to 737 the number of people killed in unrest since the militants launched a violent anti-

government campaign in March 1992.

In Nawai village near Mallawi five people were shot dead Friday in revenge attacks against the families of Islamic militants suspected of killing a police guard.

Three unknown gunmen killed Saber Mahmoud Abdul Hakim, a village guard, outside his home in Nawai village, 300 kilometres south of Cairo, the ministry said in a statement carried by the official Egyptian news agency MENA.

But eyewitnesses said they recognised the attackers as village residents known to be

members of the outlawed Gamaa Islamiyah group — Mohammed Tawfiq Hassan, Hamada Rabi Abdul Hakim and Nasser Hassan Akram.

Enraged villagers and relatives of the guard later attacked the nearby homes of Hassan and Abdul Hakim, where they shot dead Nabila Nashid Sind, Hassan's niece, his three-year-old niece Asma Hassan Tawfiq and another relative, Hassan Ali Ibrahim, the ministry said.

They also killed Abdul Hakim's aunt and uncle, Fathiya and Ramadan Abdul Hakim, according to the ministry.

## Ciller ready for more democracy before meeting Clinton

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey appears prepared to make political concessions to its Kurdish minority and other citizens but is refusing to abandon its military campaign against Kurdish rebels.

Both issues will be raised next week when Prime Minister Tansu Ciller visits Washington, which along with other Western allies has called for concessions on the political and military fronts.

Ms. Ciller said in a speech on Monday that it was essential to lift restrictions on freedom of expression in a move that would free dozens of people jailed for their views on the Kurdish issue.

"If necessary, we can call for a partial amnesty too," she said.

Turkey's Kurdish problem was highlighted on the international arena after some 35,000 Turkish troops moved inside northern Iraq to wipe

out Kurdish rebel camps last month.

Most Western countries urged an immediate withdrawal, or at least a timetable, Germany went a step further and imposed an arms embargo.

When President Bill Clinton receives Ms. Ciller at the White House on Wednesday, the theme will be similar.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott's visit here this week was a prelude to the Washington talks.

While Mr. Talbott stressed the U.S. concern that the Turkish military offensive in northern Iraq should be limited in scope and duration, he also underlined that the United States favoured the introduction of full cultural and ethnic rights for the Kurds.

Mr. Talbott also met with a group of Turkish human rights observers to get an inde-

pendent account of the situation.

"Washington seems determined to be extremely watchful over the issue and Turkey has no more chance of deceiving the world with false moves," Akin Birdal, the head of the human rights association, who attended the meeting, said.

Turkey has 12 million Kurds, who are banned from using their own language in broadcasting or education.

Since 1984, the Turkish military has been fighting rebels seeking Kurdish autonomy in southeastern Turkey. Critics of the government's refusal to grant Kurds ethnic rights say the policy has won the rebels thousands of sympathisers.

Ms. Ciller is also obliged to press ahead with the issue pending a European Parliament vote in October on a customs union agreement be-

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bahraini Shi'ite Muslim leader put in prison

NICOSIA (R) — Bahrain jailed on Saturday a Shi'ite Muslim leader who has been living under house arrest for the past two weeks, his son said. "Sheikh (Abdul Amir) Jamri was taken away from his house in a fax sent Reuters from London. No further details were immediately available. Security forces last month besieged Bani Jamri village and placed the respected cleric under house arrest. At least two people died in clashes outside the home. Sheikh Jamri, a member of a parliament dissolved 20 years ago, Bahrain residents reported fresh anti-government protests on Wednesday night after a few days' full anti-tight security but there were no reports of casualties or arrests. At least 10 civilians and three policemen have been reported killed and hundreds arrested in protests, which erupted in December, demanding the release of political prisoners and the restoration of parliament, dissolved in 1975.

### Qatar condemns Israel spy satellite

DUBAI (R) — Qatar's official news agency lashed out on Saturday at Israel's launching of a spy satellite, saying it reflects the Jewish state's disregard for peace efforts and determination to control the region militarily. In an editorial entitled "The Israeli Satellite" — between three and four columns — the agency accused Israel of ignoring the world community and progress achieved in the peace process. "This operation is now raising strong suspicion among Arabs and the world concerning Israel's true intentions in the peace process," the agency said. "Mos political and military circles in the area ask till when will Israel continue to feed the heated arms race in the Middle East," it added. Israel sent its first spy satellite into orbit on April 5 from a secret launch site south of Tel Aviv. Israel officials have said Syria, Iran and Iraq were in the satellite's path. Qatar, which has the world's third largest oil reserves, has held direct talks with Israel in recent months while Israeli officials have made public visits to the Gulf Arab state.

### Court jails Palestinian for 15 years

GAZA (AFP) — A special military court set up by Yasser Arafat jailed a Palestinian militant for 15 years on Saturday for incitement to carry out anti-Israeli suicide attacks. Aziz Shami, 25, a member of Islamic Jihad who was arrested in November, became the third person to be sentenced by the special court since it was created at the start of this year. The court announced its first two verdicts on Monday and Tuesday, jailing two other Islamic Jihad militants, Samir Al Jidi, 28, and Omar Shallah, 30, for 15 and 25 years respectively. The verdicts followed two Palestinian suicide bombings in the Gaza Strip last Sunday which killed eight people and injured more than 50 others. Palestinian human rights organisation have criticised the state security court, which was set up in response to Israel pressure to crack down on militants, because there is no right of appeal against its decisions.

### Worker killed in Kuwait robbery

KUWAIT (AP) — A Bangladeshi worker was killed and another wounded in a gas station robbery near the border with Saudi Arabia, the Interior Ministry said Saturday. A ministry statement said two men armed with a pistol and a hunting gun attacked the gas station at Al Nuwasib early dawn Friday. They shot dead the cashier and seriously injured another worker before fleeing in a waiting car with 2,000 dinars (\$7,000). A third Bangladeshi worker who escaped unharmed reported the attack to the police. Armed robberies have increased in recent years. A government campaign to collect weapons acquired by Kuwaitis during the seven-month Iraqi occupation and the days following the February 1991 liberation has not fully succeeded.

### Kuwait premier ends Bangladesh visit

DHAKA (AFP) — Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah left here Saturday ending a four-day visit, confident that talks with Bangladesh had enhanced future cooperation between the two Muslim nations. "We will go all out to implement the decisions taken here during talks to further strengthen the already existing close relationship," Sheikh Saad was quoted by the official BSS news agency as saying. Sheikh Saad described his talks with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as "very useful." It was the first visit by a senior Kuwaiti leader since the 1990-91 Gulf war when U.S.-led multinational forces including a Bangladeshi contingent, liberated Kuwait from Iraqi invasion. The Kuwaiti premier arrived Wednesday as the head of an 80-member team of government officials and private investors. During formal talks Thursday, Sheikh Saad and Ms. Zia decided to set up a ministerial-level joint commission on economic cooperation.

### Iraqi jailed for abducting son

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man who pleaded no contest to kidnapping his two-year-old son and taking him to Iraq was sentenced to 16 months in prison. Khalid Al Nasser, 33, was sentenced on Friday in superior court and was ordered to begin serving the sentence immediately. But he was given credit for time served and could be freed as early as July. "He's going to be out and I'll have to face him again," said his estranged wife, Michelle Al Nasser, 24, who handed over her son, Laith, to Mr. Nasser on July 24 at McDonald's restaurant for a three-day visit. Instead, authorities said he bought a round-trip ticket to Iraq and cancelled the return portion after arriving with his son in his native country. Months later, Mrs. Nasser, 24, told her husband into believing she wanted a reconciliation. He was arrested when he arrived in England on September 1, which has an extradition treaty with the United States.

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
15:00 ..... Animated Classics  
15:30 ..... Tarzan  
16:30 ..... Les Ratons Laveurs  
17:30 ..... Envoye Special  
18:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Ushatla  
19:30 ..... The Bold and the Beautiful  
20:00 ..... Masterpieces of Literature  
20:30 ..... Almost Home  
21:10 ..... The Other Side of Paradise  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film: "Runaway Father"  
23:59 ..... The Hidden Room  
00:30 ..... Grace and Favour

**PRAYER TIMES**  
15:40 ..... Fajr  
07:02 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
13:35 ..... Dhuhur  
17:12 ..... Asr  
20:09 ..... Maghreb  
21:30 ..... Isha

**CHURCHES**  
St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swelly, Tel. 811740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Torrevecchia Church Tel. 622666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717131  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assuan International Church Tel. 652526  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641195  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

**WEATHER**  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Temperatures are expected to rise further with winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, hot weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. Temp.  
Amman ..... 12/28

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

Aqaba ..... 16 / 32  
Deserts ..... 8 / 30  
Jordan Valley ..... 14 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 24, Aqaba 29 Humidity readings: Amman 6 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:  
Dr. Khalidoun Khouh ..... 716715  
Dr. Salah Al-Ustad ..... 849028  
Dr. Yousef Rashid ..... 896381  
Dr. Fayed Dabbas ..... 759155  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 770336  
Al Asana pharmacy ..... 670255  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Solan pharmacy ..... 626731  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 627660  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najih pharmacy ..... 847632

IRABID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qanu ..... (-)  
Alquds pharmacy ..... (-)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Fawaz Hamadallah ..... 903644

Khalifah pharmacy ..... 985417

**EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 627777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 63021  
Hotel Complaints ..... 608003  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information  
(directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680101  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53301  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53300

**HOSPITALS**

AMMAN:  
Hassan Medical Centre 81381/392  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6  
Akliah Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642662  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664171/4  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Munaser Hospital ..... 66727/9  
Qusur Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
10:55 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Paris (add) (RJ)  
16:35 ..... Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)  
18:20 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:25 ..... London (RJ)  
19:10 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
20:55 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Athens (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Rome (RJ)  
21:55 ..... Paris (add) (RJ)  
02:45 ..... Aqaba (RJ)

AKABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... 03314111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**ARRIVALS**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ)  
Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:35 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
10:05 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)  
10:55 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Paris (add) (RJ)  
16:35 ..... Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)  
18:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:20 ..... London (RJ)  
19:10 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
20:55 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Athens (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Rome (RJ)  
21:55 ..... Paris (add) (RJ)  
02:45 ..... Aqaba (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
11:30 ..... Sanza (IY)  
13:40 ..... Bahrain (GF)  
14:30 ..... Moscow (SU)  
16:15 ..... Rome, Damascus (AZ)  
21:05 ..... Cairo (ME)  
21:20 ..... Beirut (ME)  
23:20 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
12:45 ..... Athens (OA)  
01:10 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

**DEPARTURES**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ)  
Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:25 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Aqaba, Vienna (add) (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Vienna, Paris (add) (RJ)  
11:55 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Rome (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
14:30 ..... Athens (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Dhahran (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Madrid (add) (RJ)  
22:00 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
23:45 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
23:45 ..... Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)  
23:59 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
00:50 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
01:00 ..... Sanza (IY)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
07:30 ..... Rome (AZ)  
13:30 ..... Sanza (IY)  
14:30 ..... Doha (GF)

**MARKET PRICES**  
Upper/lower price in fils per 100g

Apple ..... 700  
Banana ..... 600  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 600  
Cabbage ..... 200  
Carrot ..... 200  
Cauliflower ..... 200  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 100  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 100  
Eggplant ..... 200  
Garlic ..... 200  
Green beans ..... 200  
Lemon ..... 500  
Marrow (large) ..... 100  
Marrow (small) ..... 100  
Mushrooms ..... 200  
Onion (dry) ..... 100  
Orange ..... 200  
Peach ..... 500  
Pepper (hot) ..... 200  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 200  
Potato ..... 200  
String Beans ..... 200  
Tomato ..... 200



# Home News

## Crown Prince to open meeting by Arab Contractors Union

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday will open a three-day conference organised by the Arab Contractors Union in cooperation with the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA), according to JCA President Mohammad Issa Murad.

Mr. Murad told the Jordan Times that delegates will discuss several working papers including those from the JCA dealing with pan-Arab development and its effects on the contracting and construction business of the Arab

World, inter-Arab cooperation in contracting operations as well as cooperation between Arab contractors with the international confederation of Contractors which is based in Paris and other organisations.

Mr. Murad said that the delegates will include representatives of several Arab and foreign organisations concerned with construction and contracting business.

Experts from the Arab Contractors Union, which was founded in 1984, as well as prominent economists and representatives of Arab

banks will participate in the coming three-day conference.

He said the Arab delegates will discuss among other topics the role of Arab contractors in implementing World Bank-financed projects to the Arab World.

Awni Saket, president of the Arab Contractors Union, said that Amman was selected by the union for the meeting in view of the current economic efforts being made in Jordan, including its construction, and because of the Kingdom's strategic geographic location.



## Rima Khalaf AFSED grants Jordan JD45m loan to finance power link

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf Saturday said that Jordan has been granted a loan of 19.5 million Kuwaiti dinars (JD45 million) to finance the Jordanian part of a project linking the national power grids of Syria and Jordan.

Speaking upon her return from Muscat, where she led Jordan's delegation to an annual meeting by governors of the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development (AFSED), Dr. Khalaf said that the power linkage project entails linking the two neighbouring countries' grids and building a transformer station to enable Jordan and Syria to exchange power supplies.

The Syria-Jordan power linkage, said the minister, is part of an overall project linking the electric grids of five Middle Eastern countries: Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Turkey.

The five countries signed the power linkage accord in January 1994 and announced that the project would be carried out in stages with a target completion date of 2002.

The project's first stage would be completed by 1997, the second by 1998 and the final stage by 2002, according to Mohammad Azzam, secretary of a technical committee coordinating between the five states.

Egypt and Jordan have been working on linking up their own power network before the idea of the five-nation power link up materialised.

According to Minister Khalaf, who signed the loan agreement with AFSED, the linkage between Syria and Jordan would take place from a point north of Amman.

But, she also said that the project entails expansion of the transformer station located south of Amman and installing telecommunication and control equipment as well as building a transformer station west of Amman.

The Jordanian delegation, which included representatives of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) attended the AFSED board meeting which discussed the fund's report on its activities in 1994 and its future plans.

## 3 witnesses in Abequa trial expected to arrive from U.S.

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Three American witnesses are expected to arrive in Jordan in the next few days to testify in the case of Mohammad Ismail Abequa, a naturalised U.S. citizen charged with the murder of his wife and kidnapping his two children in the U.S., the Criminal Court said Saturday.

Following a ten-minute session Saturday in the Abequa trial, Judge Abdul Rahman Tawfiq set Tuesday for the resumption of the trial at the request of the Prosecutor General Khalid Darwish to "allow key witnesses more time to travel to Jordan from the United States."

"Witnesses from the U.S. were unable to arrive today, but they will be in court next Tuesday and I request postponement of

the session," Mr. Darwish told the court.

Mr. Abequa, a Jordanian with U.S. citizenship, is accused of strangling his 40-year-old wife, Nihal, in her apartment in New Jersey on July 4 over a dispute over the custody of their two children Lisa, 7, and Sami, 4, then fleeing the U.S. to Jordan with the children.

The accused was arrested by the Jordanian authorities on July 20. Three days later Mr. Abequa confessed to having committed the murder.

According to court sources, two of the three witnesses expected to arrive from the U.S. are the victim's sister, Nesime Dokur, and Detective Gary Denamin of the New Jersey Morris County prosecutor's office.

The sources, however, would not reveal the name

of the third witness or the date of his/her arrival. The Associated Press (AP), quoting Jordanian officials, said that the third witness is Linda Sue Montgomery, a travel agent.

Others expected to arrive in Jordan Monday with Ms. Dokur and Mr. Denamin are Ms. Dokur's lawyer, Nancy Feinberg, Sharon Waxman, an aide to New Jersey Senator Frank Lautenberg, Radi Barakat, an Interpol employee, and Michael Murphy, the Morris County prosecutor, the AP said.

Ms. Dokur, flew to Jordan on Aug. 2, at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein who intervened in the case, to help solve the child custody case. She was accompanied by her two attorneys, a U.S. senator's secretary and her daughter.

The Abequa children

were put in the care of their paternal guardian, Samiha Abequa, who had vowed not to let them go with their aunt without a ruling from an Islamic Sharia court.

However, the children were flown out of the Kingdom on Aug. 17 with Ms. Dokur, while the Abequa family and supporters were staging a three-hour sit-in outside then-Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's office demanding that the children stay in Jordan.

Press reports from New Jersey said the Jordanian government granted the witnesses diplomatic safe passage through the country to protect Ms. Dokur, the AP said.

Mr. Abequa, who is with first degree murder and kidnapping pleaded innocent to all charges in the opening session of the trial April 3.



OPENING AN EDUCATIONAL WEEK: Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh (centre) Saturday opens the Scientific and Cultural Week of Al Qadisiyyah College organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture. The activities of the week include seminars and lectures on the

status of women in Islam, medical issues and computers. The scientific and cultural week also includes exhibitions of books, paintings and computers as well as a charity bazaar whose proceeds will benefit needy students at the college (Petra photo)

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Minister heads for legal meeting in Doha

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Justice Hisham Tel Saturday left for Qatar to attend the meetings of the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee which will convene in Doha from April 17 to 22. Mr. Tel told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the committee will discuss issues such as refugees, water rights and other topics of importance in the Arab and international arenas. Mr. Tel is accompanied on the visit by chief of the cassation court Judge Yusef Al Humoud and Director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department: Tawfiq Al Khalidi.

#### Turkish industrial fair to start April 22

AMMAN (Petra) — A Turkish industrial fair will be held at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman from April 22 to 24. Several major Turkish industrial companies will participate in the fair which aims to acquaint the Jordanian public and commercial sector of Turkish products. The head of the Turkish exhibitions committee, Majdi Balghouthi, said the fair also aims to encourage launching joint ventures between Jordanian and Turkish businessmen and private sector establishments. The fair will display food supplies, leather products, engines and car spare parts, medical supplies, chemicals, construction materials, air conditioners and other products.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### FILM

★ Film entitled "Omega Man" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

#### SPRING BAZAAR

★ Spring bazaar (organised by the United Nations Women's Guild) including handicrafts, ceramics, potpourri, T-shirts, home-made goods, clothing and others at the Royal Cultural Centre (10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.)

#### POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry recital by Dr. Jamal Qu'war at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

#### LECTURE

★ Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "The Responsibility of Parents and School in Education" by Nadhimia Al 'Abed at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

#### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by Samer Osama at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings by 13 leading Jordanian artists at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 699348).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Mahru Din Adhim at Balqa Art Gallery, Fuhis.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Hadia Mu'ashsher at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of art by Ahmad Na'wash at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ A collection of photos of Middle East doors by Julia Reinholdt at the Gallery, off the main lobby, Inter-Continental Hotel.

★ Exhibition of art by Moroccan artist Farid Belkhabiaz at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

★ Exhibition of art by Yassin Attiyeh and Yassin Al Muhammadawi at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of copper sculptures by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Judi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

★ Exhibition of graphic works by Rafiq Lahham at Darat Al Funun. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.

★ Exhibition of art by Leo Risp at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

## Turkish rebels stage attacks

(Continued from page 1)

statement urging the Turkish government to declare a ceasefire and negotiate a political settlement.

Mr. Ocalan also assured eastern governments that PKK would not carry out acts of violence in Europe. A Marxist revolutionary backed by the Soviet Union, Mr. Ocalan urged many and other Western governments to stop arming 'key and put pressure on Ankara to negotiate peace.

At every opportunity, we expressed our desire for

a peaceful and democratic solution to this conflict. We are ready for a mutual ceasefire, referendum, open dialogue and democratic debate," his statement, sent to a Kurdish news agency in Europe and forwarded to Ankara, said.

Turkey bans the PKK as a "terrorist" organisation and has rebuffed earlier calls for negotiations. It rejected a ceasefire offer a year ago and says the PKK is virtually finished.

More than 15,000 people have been killed in Turkey since the radical PKK took

up arms in 1984, the latest chapter in a history of conflict that dates to the Ottoman empire before World War I.

Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu said on Friday the operation in northern Iraq would take weeks. Government and army leaders meeting in Ankara said the incursion was continuing successfully.

Turkish soldiers interviewed in their tents near the Iraqi town of Zakho on Saturday said all was quiet.

"As you can see, it is very quiet here. But I really don't know when we may pull out. Ciller is in the States. Maybe after that something will happen," said one soldier.

PIPELINE IN PROGRESS: Engineers on Saturday supervise the laying of water pipelines in the Jordan valley to link the Dajania area with the King Abdullah Canal. The pipeline project, the first scheme to be carried out by the Kingdom in implementation of the peace treaty signed last October with Israel, would guarantee that Jordan gets its legitimate share of water from the Yarmouk River. Secretary General of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Hashem Shboul said the project, carried out by a Jordanian firm, is expected to be completed in June. He said the project entails laying of 1,400-millimetre diameter pipelines over a distance of 3.4 kilometres. With the completion of the pipeline, according to Mr. Shboul, 30 million cubic metres of the Yarmouk River water would be pumped to Jordan between June 15 and October 15 every year. Mr. Shboul said 50 per cent of the project has been completed thus far (Petra photo)



## NEW Friendship Line!

The first and most friendly contact line throughout the Middle East. Call now and talk to people from your country and abroad! Meet interesting friends, have nice conversations about different topics: Music, Sports, Going out, Fashion, etc... CALL TODAY. MAKE NEW FRIENDS

A 'friendship services' advertisement as it appeared in one of the local newspapers

nature have been rare in the Jordanian press, and con schemes are relatively easy to be bust in the Kingdom. But the very nature of the "services" offered — sex talk — makes it a lucrative business.

"We cannot force the newspapers to stop accepting such advertisements, but we appeal to them to stop doing so for national considerations," said the minister.

Ads offering "personal" or "friendship" services are relatively new to Jordan, but for all practical purposes they are "sex hotlines" or "love lines" — as they are known in the West — rehearsed for legitimacy in the conservative societies of the Middle East, officials say.

The Jordan Times placed a call on Saturday to a number in Canada appearing in an advertisement in the local press.

An Arabic-speaking female answered the phone and identified the number as that of "an organisation which arranges friendly calls with anybody in Canada or in many of the Arab countries."

"The only condition is that all calls go through our number since we cannot give out the telephone numbers of anyone for direct calls," said the voice. "You can speak for as much as you want."

"We are open 24 hours," added the husky voice, inquiring whether the caller had anything "specific in mind?" and offered to put "Tamara, a Jordanian girl," on the line.

The connection was cut off before the conversation proceeded any further, but it was clear that the "friendship service" was nothing less than "phone sex."



## Stores, schools close as Tokyo fears new attack

TOKYO (AP)—Helicopters patrolled Tokyo's skies and thousands of police, some in bulletproof vests and riot gear, guarded train stations Saturday in response to a prediction of disaster by the cult suspected in the city's nerve gas attack.

Two department stores were closed and classes were suspended at several schools. Streets and trains in Tokyo's central Shinjuku District were unusually empty.

Police also guarded movie theatres, airports and sports stadiums. The military's largest chemical warfare unit was placed on alert, reports said.

No incidents had been reported by late afternoon. The massive mobilisation, involving more than 10,000 police in Tokyo alone, demonstrated how frightened the city has become since the March 20 nerve gas attack on its subway system killed 11 and sickened thousands.

The religious cult Aum Shinri Kyo, or Supreme Truth, is the chief suspect in that attack. It denies involvement.

Police inspectors for the first time Saturday determined that the cult made sarin, the nerve gas used in the subway attack, in a building at its compound at the

foot of Mount Fuji in central Japan, according to the public NHK Television Network.

Daily searches at cult facilities since the attack have turned up tons of chemicals and equipment that police say could have been used to make sarin.

But the Saturday's discovery, if true, would be the first time police had found the nerve gas itself, and not just its ingredients. The cult says the chemicals on its property were to make fertilizers, computer chips and other products.

In a book published last month, the sect's leader, Shoko Asahara, predicted that disaster would strike Tokyo Saturday, sparking fears of an attack by the group.

Chief government spokesman Kozo Igarashi said the fears might be baseless, "but we must be cautious about everything so that the people can be free of worry."

Cult members warned relatives and friends that a "horrible" event might happen in Shinjuku, one of Tokyo's most popular entertainment districts.

Even people who had nothing to do with the cult were heeding news reports and staying home. Many who did venture out were nervous.

"My family told me not to

come to Shinjuku today," said Kyoko Yoshida, a recent college graduate. "But I have a job interview."

Grim-faced policemen patrolled the Shinjuku Station, normally the world's busiest. Their protective riot shields were propped against several walls.

"We have had a variety of calls warning something would happen," said one officer. "We're taking them seriously."

Tokyo hospitals were urged to stock up on nerve gas antidotes as a precaution against an attack, newspapers said.

Even railway maintenance workers were pressed into security duty, and patrolled the station — a vast multi-tiered maze of shops and corridors — wearing helmets and bright yellow work clothes.

"It's scary," said Yuki Sasaki, on a visit to Tokyo from the countryside. "It seems like Aum members could be hiding anywhere."

Evidence linking the cult to sarin, the nerve gas released in the subway attack, has made it the target of Japan's largest police investigation ever.

Police Saturday announced the arrest of cult member Masanobu Iwao, 35, on

suspicion of breaking into an electric company's laser research centre late last year. They said Mr. Iwao worked for a jewelry company operated by the sect.

The cult is interested in laser weapons and has acquired military gear, according to news reports. Police have found materials that indicate the cult was trying to manufacture its own guns.

A former member interviewed on television Saturday said he was involved in efforts by the cult to develop biological weapons between 1990 and 1992.

The man, whose name was withheld because of fear of retaliation, told the national NTV network that he helped process a mixture of toxic germs that the cult intended to spray from a sprayer attached to the top of a truck.

Police have arrested at least 107 cult members on a variety of charges, none directly related to the subway attack. The sect charges the police actions amount to religious oppression.

Asahara, who has been missing since the subway attack, predicts a war between Christians and Buddhists will set off World War III in 1997 and says sect followers must prepare to survive.



Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (centre) waves as he marches with his supporters to an election nomination centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's northern Kedah state. Mr. Mahathir filed a nomination in

Kubang Pasu Parliamentary seat, facing opposition fundamentalist Party, Islam (PAS) candidate Ahmad Mohammad Alim. Malaysians will go to polls on April 24-25 to choose a new government (AFP photo)

## Mahathir's coalition wins 9 seats

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's ruling National Front coalition has won nine parliamentary seats uncontested in the April 24-25 general election, candidate lists announced Saturday show.

All the seats are in the Borneo state of Sarawak.

Nominations for 192 seats in the expanded national parliament and 394 seats in 11 of Malaysia's 13 state assemblies were formally announced Saturday, signalling the official start of campaigning.

The walkovers in timber and oil-rich Sarawak include the constituency of Sarawak's long-serving chief minister, or head of government, Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Four cabinet ministers also won uncontested parliamentary seats in Sarawak: Education Minister Sulaiman Daud; Works Minister Leo Moggie; Science, Technology and Environment Minister Law Heng Ding and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department 'Abang Abu

Bakar Mustapha.

Mr. Mahathir, bidding for his fourth consecutive term as prime minister, marched with about 500 supporters Saturday to the nomination centre in his Kubang Pasu stronghold in northern Kedah state.

Half an hour later his opponent, Ahmad Mohd Alim of the All-Malaysian Islamic Party, or PAS as it is known by its initials in Malay, led a similar march of flag-waving backers.

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## Vietnamese expats divided over U.S. rapprochement with Hanoi

WESTMINSTER, California (AFP) — Twenty years after the fall of Saigon, the Vietnam War swirls anew as Vietnamese expatriates debate whether to back U.S. steps towards normal relations with the government of their native land.

The issue has divided the world's largest Vietnamese community outside South East Asia, in southern California, and pitted some of those who fled Communist reeducation camps against each other.

As Little Saigon here prepares for the April 30 anniversary of the collapse of South Vietnam, old resentments have begun to resurface.

"It is an emotional time for everybody here," said Co Nguyen, chief editor of Nguoi Viet, the daily Vietnamese-language newspaper in southern California. "A lot of people are still very sour and bitter, while others believe it is time to look to the future."

With such a divided community, even seemingly innocuous events can turn political. On March 3, a fundraiser for orphaned and disabled children in Vietnam was disrupted by more than 300 protesters who claimed the funds would only support the Communist government.

Co Pham, a wealthy physician who served as a surgeon in the South Vietnamese army, became the target of anonymous death threats and bomb scares last September

on the eve of his departure for a business trip to Vietnam.

"They come after me because I openly support the lifting of sanctions against Vietnam," Dr. Pham said.

"I believe economic improvement will help give the Vietnamese people better lives. Many others think the same way, but they say nothing because they are afraid for their lives."

A poll conducted by the Los Angeles Times after President Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo against Vietnam last year found that more than half of the Vietnamese living in southern California support normalisation and believe it would encourage democracy.

Opponents of normalisation dispute the results of the poll.

Nam Ha, an electronics technician who escaped Vietnam in 1981 after spending six years as a political prisoner, said a survey of 800 Vietnamese by an ad hoc community group found that all but one respondent opposed normalisation.

"Those who want to normalise are successful and want to show off their wealth in Vietnam," Mr. Ha said.

"They want to invest there and make profits by exploiting the Vietnamese people. They were driven out of their country into the sea, and now they turn their backs on the reason they are here."

Mr. Ha said he and other organisers expect more than

5,000 people to attend a peaceful demonstration against the Hanoi government on April 29.

The protest is not on the list of official cultural events such as art shows and performances of traditional Vietnamese music scheduled to mark the two decade anniversary of the fall of Saigon.

The anniversary comes three months after the United States set up a liaison office in Hanoi, a first step toward establishing full diplomatic relations.

Mr. Clinton has said Vietnamese officials must do more to account for U.S. servicemen still missing from the Vietnam War before the countries establish embassies in each other's capital.

Many Vietnamese expatriates remain sceptical of Hanoi's promises to reform and believe U.S. overtures towards Hanoi amount to a second betrayal of the Vietnamese people.

"Vietnam is like somebody who has a rope around his neck," Mr. Ha said. "The rope may be loosened, but it's still there."

"Others, however, are becoming more open in their support for such moves."

"I am no longer angry," said Viet Khanh Nguyen, who served as managing editor of the Vietnam Press News Agency before the Communists took power. "I think maybe it's time to forgive, forgive but not forget."

## Chinese Panda arrives in Berlin

BERLIN (R) — Berlin's lonely giant panda Bao B got a prospective mate in form of Yan Yan, a female Panda sent on a five-year loan by Beijing Zoo. Yan Yan, accompanied by Berlin's Mayor Eberhard Diepgen, landed at a private airport served for foreign dignitaries. Bao B had been seeking mate for the notoriously difficult business of breeding in captivity since his lone time partner Tien Tien died of a virus infection in 1988. Yan Yan's arrival has filled the pages of the capital newspapers for days, and a radio station has collected some \$58,000 in donations for the bears. But the WWF criticised the loan. International accords on protecting endangered species stipulate that only those bred in captivity can be exported. Yan Yan was found in a wild apparently abandoned the age of three months in 1985. Environmentalists also say she may not really have been abandoned, since it is not uncommon for panda mothers to leave their young for days at a time while the hunt for food.

## Horses shipped from Tunisia found abandoned in ship

MARSEILLE, France (AFP) — Officials here have discovered in a trailer 19 horses shipped from Tunisia, including one that died strangled by its own halter and two that had to be destroyed, the city's veterinary service said Friday. It said the 16 other horses were taken by truck to abattoirs in the French town of Nîmes and their meat sold for human consumption. The horses were discovered in the Marseille harbour shortly after being abandoned by the crew of the "Southern Trader" cargo ship that had transported them from Tunisia. Officials said an investigation was underway to determine why the Tunisian export and the French firm that ordered them had transported the animals in "abnormal" conditions.

## Man chooses suicide over life sentence for stealing

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A thief who stole a \$146 videocassette recorder chose to kill himself rather than face the prospect of life in prison under a California law aimed at repeat criminals. "With him being HIV-positive, it was a death sentence," said Peter Liss, the attorney for Steven White. "He didn't deserve a death sentence for stealing a VCR." When police found White in a Las Vegas hotel room on April 6, he had shot himself in the chest and left three suicide notes. One to his family, another apologising to police and a third blaming the state law. One note, quoted in Friday's editions of the San Diego Union-Tribune, said, "this all happened," because of the repeat offender law, which increases punishment for repeat criminals with records of violent or "serious" felonies. Mr. Liss said White had never been charged with a violent crime. White, 32, was convicted twice in 1983 for burglary, but served time in prison only for violating parole. He had fled San Diego on March 22, just before his trial was to begin. District Attorney Paul Pingst had refused to consider a plea bargain or re-examine White's case, calling him "a persistent career criminal."

## Champions overcome lost marbles

TINSLEY GREEN, England (AFP) — The British Marbles Championships went ahead here despite the loss of the competitors' marbles. A consignment of 300 new tournament marbles vanished en route from the Devon manufacturers to the village in West Sussex where the annual championships were being held. Serious marbles players set as much store by new marbles as tennis players by new balls. For a time the lost marbles threatened to scupper the contest. But organisers and players reconciled themselves to old marbles and scraped together enough to play.

## Greek anarchist youths rampage through Athens

ATHENS (R) — Scores of young self-styled anarchists rampaged through central Athens Saturday, building blazing barricades on main avenues, hurling petrol bombs at riot police and smashing shop windows, police said.

Police fired dozens of rounds of teargas around the Athens Business School and Panteion University to try to disperse the masked youths.

About 20 people were arrested, police said. Three police officers and five other people were injured.

The clashes erupted when police tried to break up a march Friday evening by about 300 students and anarchists around the Athens Business School.

Anarchists have staged demonstrations for the past week to protest against the stabbing of two of their members by a right-wing youth.

Pitched battles between the anarchists and police continued into the early hours of Saturday after dozens of the youths took control over the

two school buildings.

Police said dozens of anarchists were also holed up in Panteion University and could be seen hurling rocks from the roof.

Large barricades built from school furniture and rubbish burned across the main Athens avenues of Syngrou and Patission. Expensive car showrooms were wrecked and rubbish bins were set on fire.

The anarchists, many wearing masks or with faces wrapped in scarves, threw rocks, sticks and petrol bombs at police and taunted them by tearing apart a large Greek flag.

In the northern city of Salonika, police also reported clashes and burning barricades. An emergency meeting was held at Athens police headquarters early Saturday to try to decide how to deal with the violence.

Anarchists, who have no declared political views, have for years attacked peaceful marches in Athens and then clashed with police.



Riot police arrest youngsters as a woman lies bleeding from the head after being hit by a stone thrown by one of the youths during heavy clashes between anarchists and police in central Athens (AFP photo)



Defence attorney Barry Scheck points to the prosecution team during a morning hearing where he accused the prosecution of deliberate and intentional misconduct regarding what

Mr. Scheck called giving false information to the defence. Mr. Scheck is the expert on DNA for the defence on the O.J. Simpson murder trial (AFP photo)

## Simpson judge: Prosecution broke rule by popping original document before jury

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The O.J. Simpson judge chastised prosecutors for playing unfair but still allowed them to show jurors the fourth page of a crime scene report that the defence had suggested was destroyed as part of a coverup.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito Friday said the prosecutors intentionally violated a court order when they failed to tell him and opposing lawyers that they had found the missing page.

In his slash-and-burn cross-examination, Defence Attorney Barry Scheck had accused criminalist Dennis Fung of replacing the page because it contained notations that conflicted with his account of when he received a vial of Simpson's blood.

Mr. Scheck produced the copied page with great fanfare Thursday, noting it was the only page of the report without staple holes. The lack of holes, Mr. Scheck contended, proved that another page was slipped into the report as part of a conspiracy to frame Simpson for

two murders. Minutes after that, Deputy District Attorney Hank Goldberg produced the original page in court and had Mr. Fung identify it, drawing vehement objections from the defence.

Mr. Goldberg refused to concede any wrongdoing. He said the defence was upset because its dramatic claim of conspiracy had been defeated.

"Their tactical decision didn't work," Mr. Goldberg argued outside the presence of the jury. "Quite frankly, I would not have thought of predicating a conspiracy theory based upon the existence or non-existence of staple holes on page 4."

Judge Ito said he might consider this a "no harm, no foul" situation except for his earlier order demanding the disclosure of all documents before they are raised in testimony.

"I find the failure to disclose was a violation of the court's order, and I am going to instruct the jury," the judge said.

But lead prosecutor Marcia Clark moved quickly to stop the judge, arguing that no instruction should be given until other issues of lawyer misconduct are argued. The judge agreed to consider the matters next Wednesday.

That permitted Mr. Goldberg to proceed with his re-direct and show jurors the resurfaced crime report page. Mr. Fung said he found it while flipping through a notebook after his grueling cross-examination had concluded.

The page, which contained a blank space where officers normally note the time they depart a crime scene, was passed among jurors along with the copy they had seen Thursday. Some of them held the two documents up to the light to compare the marks left by the staples, holes on the original, black specks on the copy.

Mr. Goldberg's efforts to repair the damage done to Mr. Fung prompted a flurry of defence objections, sending attorneys racing to and from the judge's bench for legal arguments.

## Haiti arrests suspect in Bertin killing

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — An arrest has been made in the murder of an outspoken opposition lawyer, a killing that embarrassed the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the U.S.-led mission that restored him to power.

A spokesman for the U.N. military mission in Haiti said Claudi Lacroix was arrested Thursday in connection with the March 28 murder of Mireille Durocher Bertin. But Eric Falt was unable to provide details about Mr. Lacroix or any possible charges against him.

"At the moment, we don't wish to give supplementary details. It is too soon because of the nature of the investigation," Mr. Falt said Friday. Ms. Bertin, 35, and a companion were killed on a busy street in the centre of the capital when gunmen sprayed their car with bullets.

Ms. Bertin was a prominent proponent and adviser of the military leaders who toppled Mr. Aristide in September 1991. Since the U.S.-led military mission returned him to power last fall, she had been one of Mr. Aristide's most vocal critics.

Nine days before Ms. Bertin's killing, the multinational force in Haiti was alerted to a plot to kill dozens of coup supporters and arrested six people accused of being involved.

Mr. Aristide's interior minister, Monesir Beaubrun, was implicated in ordering the assassination, according to a March 22 letter to the Haitian government from the force commander, U.S. Gen. George Fisher.

## Documents suggest Germany, Japan sought negotiated end to war

ROME (AP) — Newly declassified OSS documents suggest that both Germany and Japan, using the auspices of the Vatican, tried to end the war before they were brought to their knees in unconditional surrender.

That secret U.S.-Japanese talks in Rome took place at all would appear to be a major revelation, although a Vatican historian cast doubt on the account. But the historian confirmed that contacts between the Vatican and Germany were made.

The documents describe meetings said to have taken place in February and March 1945, when it was clear allied might would bring heavy destruction on the two countries.

Germany, in fact, surrendered unconditionally on May 7, 1945, and Japan announced its surrender on Aug. 14 after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The documents were obtained by the Simon Wiesenthal centre in Los Angeles from the archives of the OSS, forerunner of the CIA. They were apparently prepared by OSS informers, with two of them written in Italian. The documents were made available to the Associated Press.

The Vatican historian, the Rev. Robert Graham, corroborated that a meeting between the German ambassador to the Vatican, Ernst Von Weizsacker, and Pope Pius XII took place on March 1, 1945, as reported in the

document.

"The Berlin government wished to know, in a completely private and secret way, if the Pope would be willing to act as a mediator with the enemies of Germany in this manner," was the message the ambassador was said to have brought.

But it attached such conditions that the Pope reportedly replied it would be useless to pursue "knowing that these conditions would be rejected from the beginning."

They included that the Nazi leadership would not be considered war criminals and would simply resign and be left in peace.

The present German government is still capable of waging the war for a long time and to make the allies pay very dearly for this fight to the last drop of blood," the Pope was reportedly told.

Rev. Graham, an American Jesuit and expert on the Vatican's wartime archives, contends that Berlin believed that Von Weizsacker may have been linked to the 1944 plot to kill Adolf Hitler and questioned whether the Nazi government would have trusted him to make such an offer. However, Rev. Graham suggested he may have been acting on his own.

A second document describes a meeting said to have taken place between Myron Taylor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal representative to the Vatican, and Japanese Ambassador

of Monsignor Pio Rosingnani, a relative of the Pope.

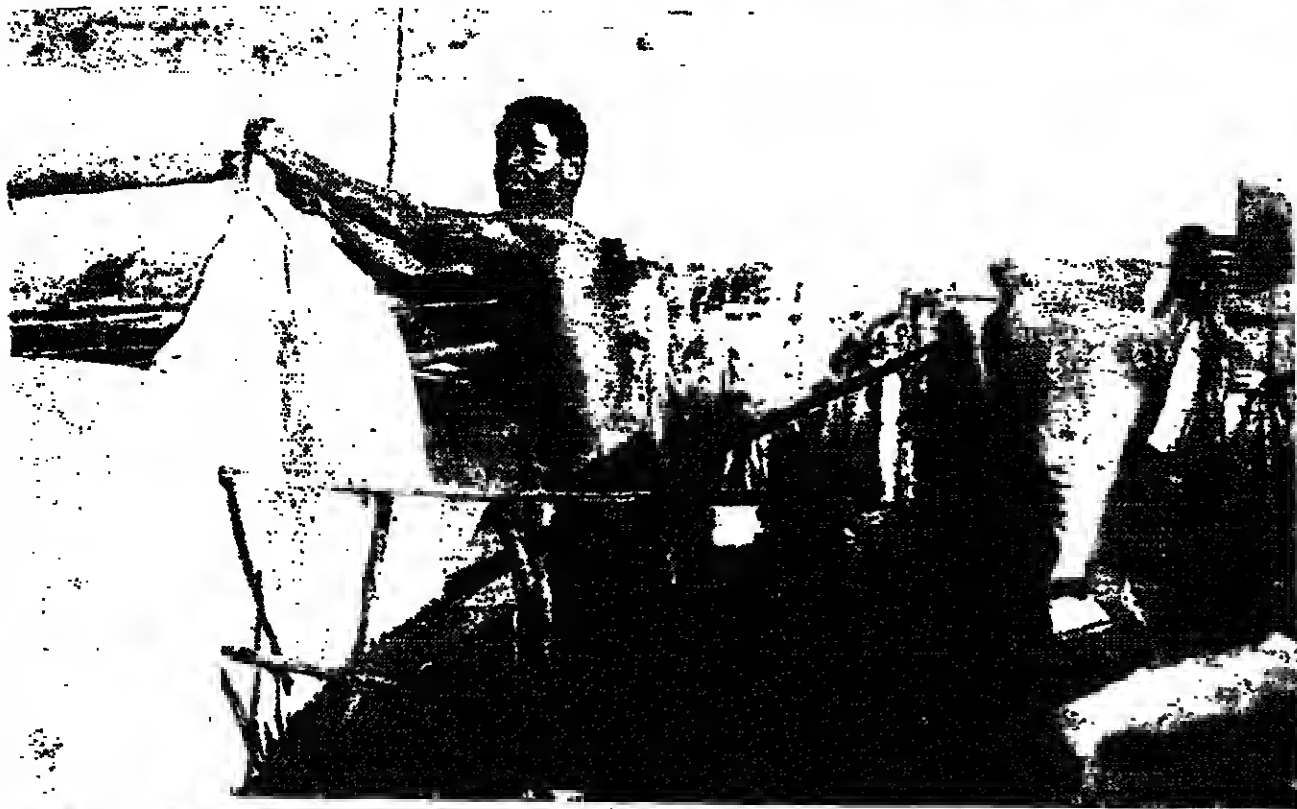
The Japanese ambassador, according to the document, was seeking a negotiated peace and Mr. Taylor promised to pursue the issue while cautioning that U.S. public opinion, still angered by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941, would likely be opposed.

A brief follow-up, written in English, said the Pope asked Fr. Rosingnani to prepare a report on Japanese-United States peace negotiation possibilities for use when Roosevelt met with Pope Pius on the president's return from Yalta, where the allied powers met in February 1945. Such a meeting never took place.

Rev. Graham said the report first surfaced years ago and that Mr. Taylor, who died in 1959, himself denied he ever met with the Japanese ambassador. Rev. Graham claimed the OSS used an unreliable operative in Rome.

Rabbi Martin Hier, the head of the Wiesenthal Centre, said the documents were obtained under the centre's standing Freedom of Information Act request for U.S. government archival material on Pope Pius XII. Jewish groups have long questioned whether Pope Pius did all he could to spare European Jews from the Holocaust. Rev. Graham and other church officials have defended Pope Pius from such criticism.





A Rwandan refugee fixes his shelter in the Birava camp, 35 kilometres from Bukavu on Lake Kivu, after an attack by unidentified gunmen that killed 37 people and injured 54 others (AFP photo)

## Rwandan refugees in Zaire deny invasion plans

BUKAVU, Zaire (R) — Former Rwandan soldiers accused of planning an invasion from exile say they are a spent force in eastern Zaire's refugee camps.

"We have been forgotten by the international community," complained Yves Kalo, an ex-soldier sitting in a tent nursing a festering wound he says he suffered last July.

The exiled Hutus dismiss repeated accusations by Rwandan officials and aid workers that the thousands of former troops and militiamen blamed for genocide in Rwanda are regrouping in camps ahead of an invasion to topple the government in Kigali.

Instead the refugees portray themselves as innocent victims of attacks by the Tutsi minority that won a civil war last July.

Resentment among the Hutu refugees, including former troops and militiamen, is running high following the slaughter of 37 refugees in a raid by gunmen on a border camp last Tuesday.

"The war is not over," said former Rwandan Police Colonel Theomase Niyilimani in a camp outside the Zairean border town of Bukavu holding many exiled fighters from last year's bloodbath in Rwanda.

"No (peace) treaty has been signed. We left, that's all."

Last Tuesday night about 30 armed men in four boats crossed Lake Kivu which straddles the Zaire-Rwanda border, shot up a Zairean island village and attacked Birava camp north of Bukavu.

Gilbert Despit of the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) said the gunmen fired into the lakeside camp for nearly two hours.

Some 28 people were killed outright and dozens — nine of whom have since died — were wounded. Refugees said 20 Hutu men had also been taken hostage by the gunmen, who slipped away.

"It's important to remember that nobody fired back at the gunmen," said Mr. Despit, playing down the accusations that an army-in-waiting is the real power in the Zaire refugee camps.

Zaire blamed Rwandan troops for the attack, an accusation denied by Kigali. Aid workers said it was unclear who was responsible and it could not even be ruled out the gunmen were from inside Zaire.

Despite the former soldiers' denials, many aid workers believe regrouping has taken place among the tens of thousands of former fighters mixed in with the two million refugees who fled to Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi.

"When they say there are weapons in Bukavu, it's true," said Mr. Despit.

The Rwandan government in recent weeks has complained of an increasing number of cross-border attacks from the Bukavu area, including shootings, murders and mine explosions and is stopping food aid being trucked through its territory to the Zaire camps.

Rwandan Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu defended Friday blocking food aid, saying former soldiers and militiamen were being fed while they caused insecurity in border areas.

"What we are frankly afraid of is the training being given in the camps to youths and also to the former army," he told U.N. officials. "You have seen it and they are eating the food you are giving them."

The former Rwandan soldiers, seen in some camps around Bukavu, do not seem to present a great threat.

Panzi camp with 11,000 refugees holds many former members of Rwanda's military. But many of the young men lounging around are amputees, wounded or family men rather than would-be guerrillas.

Meanwhile, France's cooperation minister Friday demanded an international embargo on arms to Burundi, saying a flux of arms into the strife-torn nation was hampering hopes for peace.

Clinton officially becomes a candidate for reelection

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — It's official: President Clinton is now also candidate Clinton.

Without fanfare, the U.S. president filed papers with the Federal Election Commission Friday declaring himself a candidate for reelection and establishing the Clinton-Gore '96 Primary Committee Inc.

The political paperwork will be followed up months from now by the showy balloons-and-bunting kickoff of Mr. Clinton's reelection campaign. But the formalities were necessary at this point so Mr. Clinton could crank up his money machine.

On Monday, Mr. Clinton is sending a letter to what Press Secretary Mike McCurry describes as 1 million of the president's "closest friends," inviting them to join a national steering committee for the reelection effort.

The letter doesn't expressly ask for money, but Mr. McCurry allowed that it does "conveniently" include a return envelope should supporters feel moved to contribute.

In the letter, Mr. Clinton tells his supporters, "I need your partnership once again to succeed in the most challenging campaign I will ever face."

He also invokes the specter of "dangerous and shortsighted measures" by his Republican opponents in what is likely to be a recurrent campaign theme, warning against "a different vision which reduces government to an entity without room for helping children (or) ordinary Americans."

Mr. McCurry said Mr. Clinton hopes to raise and spend the maximum legal amount for the primary phase of the campaign, which is likely to be around \$33 million.

The nascent campaign has an office in downtown Washington and a handful of paid staff members are organizing fund-raising activities.

Would-be Republican rivals have been jumping into the race and raising millions in hopes that Mr. Clinton's will be a one-term presidency.

Mr. Clinton's chances for reelection? "splendid," deadpanned Mr. McCurry.

Meanwhile, President Clinton said Saturday that welfare reform is at the top of his legislative agenda for this year followed by tax and spending cuts.

In his national weekly radio address, taped Thursday for Saturday morning broadcast, Mr. Clinton said a lot of the work done to date by the Republican-led Congress has been good but many proposals go too far.

He said the House Welfare Reform Bill approved on March 24 — and now going to the Senate for consideration — is too weak on helping people move from welfare to work.

But he said recent proposals by a number of senators for welfare reforms that do not withhold welfare assistance to teenaged mothers are a step in the right direction.

"We can and must work together to pass a welfare reform bill that I can sign into law this year," he said. "Delaying any further would be a betrayal of what the American people want."

Second on his "must" list are tax and spending cuts. He said tax cuts must be directed at middle-class Americans and must include a deduction for the cost of college or other education after high school.

The House-approved \$189 billion tax cut, now headed for the Senate, does not include such a deduction.

Mr. Clinton pledged to work with Congress to go beyond the \$600 billion in

deficit reduction already enacted since Mr. Clinton took office.

Third on his list is protecting his promise to put 100,000 new jobs in the streets and retain a ban on 19 types of assault weapons. The House would give states block grants for law enforcement — not specifically for hiring police — and some would repeal the assault weapons ban.

"We should all be open to new proposals for tougher penalties and more support for our police, but they must not be a cover for cutting back on our commitment for 100,000 new police... or for repealing the assault weapons ban... if that happens, I'll veto it," he said.

Mr. Clinton said the first 100 days of the Republican-led Congress "produced a blizzard of ideas and proposals" and that in the next 100 days Congress "must get down to the hard task of passing bills" that he can sign.

Mr. Clinton was spending Easter weekend with his family at the presidential retreat of Camp David in rural Maryland and was expected to return Sunday night to Washington. The House and Senate are on Easter recess.

President Clinton said former Defence Secretary Robert McNamara's judgement that the United States made a terrible mistake by involving itself in the Vietnam War vindicates his own opposition to the war.

Mr. Clinton, in an off-camera discussion Thursday with CNN, was asked about Mr. McNamara's new memoir. In it, Mr. McNamara broke years of silence to offer the judgement that he and other U.S. officials who pressed the war effort were "wrong, terribly wrong."

CNN White House corres-

pondent Wolf Blitzer said Mr. Clinton commented after a lengthy on-camera interview with colleague Judy Woodruff. Mr. Blitzer said he asked Mr. Clinton if he felt vindicated by Mr. McNamara's memoir. He quoted the president as responding, "yes, I do. I know that sounds self-serving, but I do."

Mr. McCurry, paraphrasing Mr. Clinton's comments, said Friday that the president "thought it took a lot of courage to write the book and, on balance, it was a good thing that the former defence secretary had written the book."

"He thought that, on balance, the information in the book and the argument that Mr. McNamara makes certainly vindicates the views of millions of Americans, including President Clinton, that the Vietnam War was a sorry episode in American history and that those who opposed the war had good grounds for doing so," Mr. McCurry said.

Mr. McCurry said the subject of Mr. Clinton's successful efforts to avoid the draft for a time by obtaining a Reserve Officers Training Corps educational deferment did not come up.

Mr. Clinton, who participated in protests against the war, received the deferment at a time when he was particularly vulnerable to the draft but never actually participated in the ROTC program.

He later gave up the deferment and made himself available for the draft but his number in the draft lottery was not called. The issue was a sore point during the presidential campaign, when conservative critics called Mr. Clinton a draft dodger and questioned his patriotism.

## 2 French soldiers killed in as many days in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AFP) — A French soldier was killed by sniper fire in Sarajevo Saturday, the second from the U.N. French contingent in as many days, as firing incidents involving peacekeepers escalated in Bosnia amid a dying truce.

The killing of two French contingent soldiers came in the midst of a presidential election campaign in France and might become an electoral issue there.

France, the largest contributor to U.N. forces in the former Yugoslavia with more than 4,500 men, has already lost 33 soldiers since the start of operations in early 1992.

French Armed Forces Joint Chief-of-Staff Admiral Jacques Lanxade, who arrived in the Bosnian capital Saturday afternoon to recover the body of the first soldier killed, was to be joined here by French Defence Minister Francois Lottard, according to a statement from Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's office in Paris.

Early Saturday afternoon, Adm. Lanxade, U.N. Bosnia Force commander General Rupert Smith and U.N. Sarajevo sector commander General Herve Gobeillard were huddled in talks on the security situation in the besieged Bosnian capital, U.N. Protection Force spokesman Captain Myriam Sochacki said.

France Saturday expressed "indignation" at the killing of the second peacekeeper in Sarajevo in as many days, slamming the shooting as a "cowardly act."

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's office said the premier had called on Defence Minister Francois Lottard to go to the Bosnian capital immediately where he will meet with the head of the

French contingent in the war-torn city.

In a statement, the Paris government repeated Friday's plea to the United Nations to do "everything to determine the origin of this odious act" and to ensure that sanctions be imposed on those responsible.

(And French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe called on the U.N. to "punish" those responsible for the killings).

It was not immediately known which of the warring parties were responsible for the two sniping incidents.

U.N. officers suggested Friday's sniping might have come from a Bosnian government-held position and Saturday's from Serb positions in the city.

The French soldier killed Saturday morning had been busy erecting an anti-sniping barricade to protect civilians on Sarajevo's notorious "Sniper Alley."

He was shot through the chest as he tried to jump from the cabin of a military-type fork-lift truck when shots rang out, photographers at the scene said.

The origin of fire was assessed as coming from "south of the Miljacka," UNPROFOR spokesman Major Pierre Chavancy said, referring to an area bordering the river where both Serb and Bosnian lines are closely knit together.

On Friday, a sniper shot dead a soldier serving with the French Foreign Legion. The legionnaire, named as Ralf Gunther, 23, of east German origin, was shot through the neck as he stood up in his armoured vehicle in the government-held Dobrinja suburb, near the airport.

UNPROFOR spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Coward said it was not possible to

ascribe blame for Friday's shooting as both Bosnian government and Bosnian Serb snipers could have hit him.

But a Bosnian Serb sniper "would have to be very good, possibly even exceptional" to kill at the range of 400 metres a target in a moving vehicle, Col. Coward said, Bosnian positions were closer, he indicated.

Meanwhile, in other incidents around the country, two Pakistani soldiers were wounded Friday when their resupply convoy came under Bosnian Serb fire near Ribnica, in northern Bosnia, UNPROFOR said.

U.N. convoys travelling along that route have repeatedly been targeted by the Serbs.

And there were several other close firing incidents involving U.N. soldiers, including in the Muslim-held eastern enclave of Srebrenica where Bosnian government forces Friday fired in the direction of a U.N. observation post and Bosnian Serbs later fired at a U.N. Dutch patrol.

The increase in firing incidents comes two weeks ahead of the official end to a four-month truce which both warring parties have been increasingly violating.

In Athens, Greece, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Saturday the Bosnian peace process is "in great danger" because the West has failed to take into account the positive role to be played by Serbia.

Mr. Kozyrev, in Athens for a meeting of the Black Sea Cooperation Pact, said Serbia and Montenegro, its partner in the rump Yugoslavia, are "no longer parties to the conflict but are on the con-

trary a crucial factor for resolving the crisis."

He said Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic "has played a determining role in this new attitude" and needs to be brought into the peace process, which he said "is in great danger today."

Mr. Kozyrev was speaking after talks early Saturday with Greek Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias.

Russia and Greece have deep religious and historic ties to the Serbs and have argued strongly in favour of breaking Serbia's international isolation in response to Belgrade's decision last year to impose a blockade on Bosnian Serbs as part of pressure to get them to accept an international peace plan.

Foreign ministers of the 11-state Black Sea Cooperation Pact ended their meeting near Athens Friday divided on whether to demand a lifting of international sanctions against Belgrade.

Greece, the host, had sought an agreement to ask that the sanctions be lifted, but its neighbours Turkey and Albania strongly opposed the move.

Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine agreed finally on a joint letter to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali stressing the damage the embargo has done to their economies.

"Because of the geographic situation of our countries, the sanctions against Yugoslavia have caused significant direct and indirect economic losses," the five countries said.

"The weight of the sanctions has passed the reasonable point of economic and social tolerance," the statement added.

## Yeltsin: Treaty with Ukraine depends on Crimea

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin said Saturday he would sign a much-delayed friendship treaty with Ukraine only after it solved a dispute with its autonomous region of Crimea, dominated by ethnic Russians.

"It will be correct to sign major political documents between Russia and Ukraine only after we are convinced that the relations between Simferopol and Kiev do not infringe the interests of the Crimeans," Mr. Yeltsin told ITAR-TASS news agency.

"Russians form the majority of the population in the Republic of Crimea, which is part of Ukraine. Russia has considerable interests in Crimea," he said.

"That is why we are not indifferent to the fate of Crimea. The president and the government want the problems in relations between the authorities in Simferopol and Kiev to be settled through political dialogue, without pressure and with respect for the will of the Crimeans."

The latest date proposed was the end of April and acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, who heads Ukraine's delegation in talks with Russia, had intended to go to Moscow next week to iron out details for signing the treaty.

Mr. Yeltsin's comments cast a shadow over the visit. Ukraine's parliament last month outlawed Crimea's constitution and eliminated the post of regional president.

President Leonid Kuchma then made the government of the Black Sea peninsula directly responsible to Kiev, virtually wiping out the autonomy extended by Ukraine to Crimea in 1992.

Two-thirds of Crimea's 2.7 million residents are ethnic Russians. Authority over the region was transferred from Russia to Ukraine by Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in 1954.

Ukrainian officials dismissed Mr. Yeltsin's comments. "Ukraine's policy on Crimea is absolutely clear. Crimea is an internal matter for Ukraine. Therefore there are no issues in dispute over Crimea between Russia and Ukraine," Mykhailo Doroshenko, Mr. Kuchma's press secretary, told Reuters.



Prime Minister and presidential candidate Edouard Balladur greets supporters during a campaign meeting in eastern Reims (AFP photo)

## Chirac leads a week ahead of vote

PARIS (R) — Conservative Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac appeared poised for victory in the first round of the French presidential election in a week's time.

A wave of last-minute polls showed Mr. Chirac comfortably leading the field of nine candidates, leaving fellow conservative Edouard Balladur and Socialist Lionel Jospin to compete for a spot in the May 7 run-off, held in the event no one wins a first-round majority.

A blackout on the publication of new polling data starts at midnight Saturday and remains in effect until after the April 23 first ballot.

A BVA poll released Saturday gave Mr. Chirac 26 per cent of the vote, Mr. Jospin 19 per cent and Mr. Balladur 16 per cent.

Gaining on Mr. Balladur, in fourth, was extreme-rightist National Front candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen with 14 per cent, according to the survey conducted Wednesday through Friday.

Five other polls conducted last week all had similar findings, giving Mr. Chirac 25 to 26 per cent of the vote and a lead of 5 to 5.5 percentage points over Mr. Jospin who in turn led Mr. Balladur by one-half to 3.5 points.

About a third of voters were attracted to the six other candidates in the race, the polls found.

The polls showed Mr. Chirac, the Gaullist Paris mayor, with strong support among most voter blocs including such key groups as women and young people, and even leftists.

Though a loyal conservative with close ties to the business community, Mr. Chirac has reached out to the left with a call for radical change and appeals for more housing aid and pay rises for public sector workers whose salaries have been frozen.

By contrast, the polls show Mr. Balladur, his more cautious fellow Gaullist and initially the campaign frontrunner, enjoying strong support only among older voters.

Both Mr. Balladur and Mr. Jospin were telling voters they were confident of a second-place finish, making them eligible to challenge Mr. Chirac in the run-off.

The campaign was in a pre-Easter lull but ahead of the three-day holiday weekend, they both targeted undecided voters, whom pollsters say make up about a third of the electorate.

Mr. Jospin, noting the polls can err by several points, urged the left to rally behind his candidacy "to make things certain" and said he was confident enough of a

first-round victory to begin next week to plan his strategy for the run-off.

Mr. Balladur sounded less certain.

"I am convinced due to the large number of undecided voters — there have never been so many — that anything is possible," he told France-Info Radio Friday.

The premier's daily campaign newsletter urged voters to turn their backs on Mr. Jospin and focus on what it maintained were the only two candidates with a chance of winning the presidency.

"If, as expected, the true choice will be made on the Sunday of the second round, better to make the right choice on the first round, by voting for one of the only two men who have a chance to emerge victorious," it said.

Meanwhile, ailing President Francois Mitterrand spoke proudly of his life and legacies in an interview televised Friday night and said he still intends to remain in office until after the May 7 presidential runoff.

"It is a question of state," said the 78-year-old leader of his battle with prostate cancer. "After May 7, it will become a private question. I will be very happy, so I will try to hold on until then," he said, his hands slightly trembling.



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## Resolution with an opening

THE U.N. Security Council resolution adopted Friday allowing Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months could be the beginning of the end of the sanctions imposed on the country in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis more than four years ago. U.N. Secretary General Butros Ghali echoed this assessment when he appealed to Baghdad to accept the offer. Understandably, the Iraqi government has many reservations about this latest move by the council to respond to the international cries for easing the untold hardships on the Iraqi people. And it is in this context that the fears expressed by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, basically about the resolution ending up as a substitute action, have to be viewed and understood.

Mr. Aziz and the rest of the Iraqi leadership must have been most concerned about the negative implications of the U.N. action on their country's sovereignty. It will be noted that the council's decision stipulates how the Iraqi oil could be exported, the revenues collected, and in the process depriving the country of certain aspects of its independence. While we can comprehend those anxieties and concerns and even be sympathetic with them, we believe that Iraq's overall interests are better served by accepting the U.N. offer. True, only two-thirds of the projected oil revenues would be put at the disposal of the Iraqi regime to spend on certain humanitarian purposes. Still, the amounts collected under this scheme would go a long way to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, who, after all, are paying the highest price ever for the colossal mistakes of the Gulf conflict.

What is most objectionable, though, is the allocation of nearly one-third of the income generated by the oil sale for war reparations. This is a disproportionate allocation of resources that should be corrected when the resolution is renewed at a future date. The fact that the latest resolution is renewable means that Iraq would be afforded another opportunity to introduce the necessary amendments. Iraq's acceptance of the U.N. gesture and how it goes about implementing it would lend additional support to the position of those who want to see a more balanced approach to Iraq's plight.

In relative terms, the U.N. action remains a marked improvement on the 1991 resolution permitting Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil under even more controversial conditions. Hopefully, even the most recent terms could be changed for the better when they are up for reconsideration in the future.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i said the U.N. Security Council decision to allow Iraq to sell limited supplies of oil will lead to a breach in the sanctions that were clamped on Iraq in August 1990, following its invasion of Kuwait. Saleh Al Qasem said that the decision was bound to strengthen the conviction among world nations that the sanctions are an abnormal measure, creating difficulties not only to the Iraqi people but also to the world community at large. The decision would also create a new situation allowing the Iraqis to pursue further efforts for the complete lifting of sanctions at a later stage, continued the writer. The decision, allowing Iraq to sell \$1 billion worth of oil every 90 days, was adopted by the council as proposed by the United States and Britain, which aimed at sending out a signal that they were indeed concerned with alleviating the sufferings of the Iraqi people, thus outbidding all other attempts by other nations to do so, said the writer. But, he said, the decision was largely a result of intensified Iraqi contacts with the U.N. Security Council members, and it would be most difficult for Washington or London to go back on the resolution or prevent other future favourable decisions once they have been put into force and proved to be working successfully.

WITH OBVIOUS reference to the recent violence at the University of Jordan, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Saturday that national unity should take priority over all other matters and the rule of the law should be enhanced by all means. The rule of the law constitutes the basic pillar of a modern society because it provides guarantees for security, stability and progress in the country, said the daily. The paper said that democratic rule which has been adopted as the most effective means enabling the country to enter the 21st century with confidence, also hinges on the basic element of national unity. Sectarianism, factional affiliation and racism have all become practices of the past, and cannot be tolerated in a modern democratic society and modern institutions, stressed the paper.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## An economic scenario for 1995: Will the government deliver?

JORDAN is an integral part of the Middle East, a region where no one can make a prediction with any degree of certainty. So many factors and variables are interacting in the Middle East to influence and sometimes alter the landscape, making uncertainty the rule of the game. A well-programmed computer with all available information being fed-in would explode if required to produce a meaningful projection for only one year ahead based on information pertaining to the past year.

Yet, if one is to venture into the future, drawing on the IMF projections, one is bound to end up with variations that depend on shifting environment and changing circumstances.

Unless an unexpected surprise takes place, economic growth in Jordan in 1995, expressed in real terms, will be in the order of six per cent. Inflation will not exceed 4.5 per cent, and the nominal exchange rate of the dinar against the dollar will only be in the range of the plus or minus two percentage points.

Deficit in the central government budget, before foreign grants, is projected to decrease from 5.1 per cent of GDP to 4.3 per cent in 1995. However, the deficit may increase instead of decreasing if the fiscal policy is influenced by politics, pressure groups and appeasement tactics. Unfortunately it seems that Basal Jarrah, the present finance minister is not the same tough minister who used to be in his term between 1989 and 1993.

Deficit in the balance of trade (commodities) is not expected to decline, as it did in 1994, due to a decline in imports by 3.7 per cent and a rise in exports by about 15 per cent. Yet, trade deficit will continue to be less than it used to be in 1992 and 1993. However, it may drop even more if

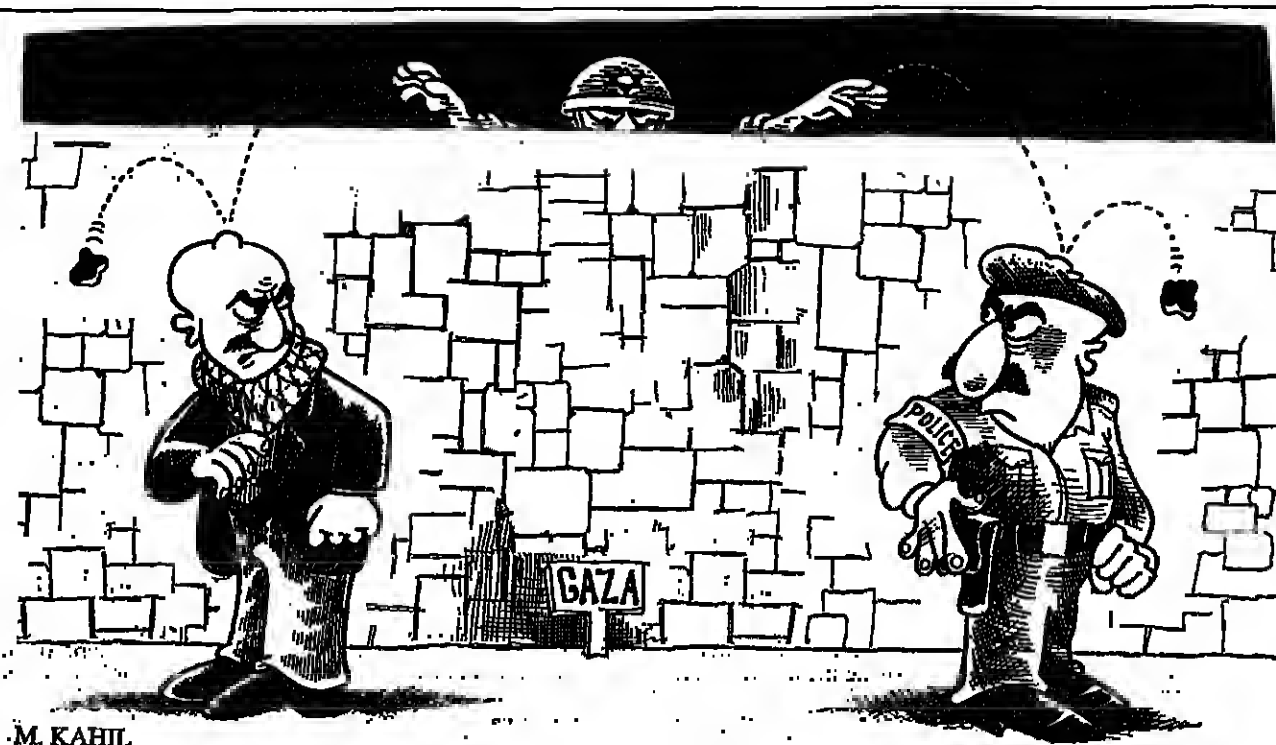
the current trade recession continues all through 1995. Deficit in the balance of trade is once more expected to narrow, albeit very slowly. The reduction in absolute figures will be minimal, but may give better reading as a percentage of GDP, from 8.8 per cent in 1994 to eight per cent in 1995.

Jordan's external indebtedness will rise by some 2.5 per cent due to capitalisation of interest on the one hand and excess borrowing over repayment on the other. The year may end up with a net indebtedness of \$7.1 billion. However, the deterioration of the dollar, if not reversed soon, will cause another increase in Jordan's indebtedness because the largest portion of the debt is in Japanese yen, German mark, and French franc.

External debt service is expected to top \$1,070 million in 1995, which is sufficient to swallow 50 per cent of the budget and over 24 per cent of the proceeds of exports in goods and services. However, taking re-scheduling into account will render the amount earmarked in the budget for debt service more than enough.

If everything went according to the above scenario, the Central Bank of Jordan will be able to increase net reserves in free exchange by \$100 million. Net reserves by the year end will stand at \$600 million, which can finance imports of 2.1 months instead of the present coverage of 1.8 months.

These are the targets of the Jordanian economy in 1995 as agreed by the government and the IMF in the last days of 1994 which were also the last days of the previous government. It is up to the present government to achieve more as was the case in most years, or to be content with less, in which case it has to look for excuses to justify its shortcomings.



M. KAHIL

## The transportation system: new problems with old solutions

By Dr. Shaker Mahadin

MOST OF the people who participate in conferences, speeches and television and radio programmes that deal with traffic accidents in Jordan are not specialists in transportation science and they are not familiar with modern science to encounter such problems. Everybody talks about traffic accidents, even the ministry of culture is suggesting solutions. What we are doing falls within the Third World mentality that everybody knows everything and few know something. No wonder we are still behind most developed countries in various ways.

The approach to transportation safety requires understanding how we got this problem in the first place. Why are we here trying to do something but end up doing nothing. The ignorance of transportation systems, the lack of national transportation policy and the absence of a qualified authority to regulate and control this system are but few of many reasons behind our traffic problems. Solutions cannot be achieved unless we fully understand the problem. We have to use the modern technology in the transportation field and use what fits our case from other countries' experience. Many questions are needed to be answered first. Who is in charge of the transportation system in Jordan? Is it the Ministry of Transportation with its limited resources and responsibilities? Or is it the Ministry of Interior with its lack of specialised persons in transportation or the municipality of Amman with its many heavy responsibilities? Do we have the data base that can tell us how the people travel, why they travel, and which route they take? Do we have a clear policy that defines and states the relationship between different modes of transportation? Why do we allow the imbalance between the automobiles and public transportation which create so many problems such as congestion, air pollution and accidents, and almost do nothing? The last, and may be the most important question, is how many thousands of dinars, if any, are spent on research and development (R&D) in the transportation field?

In my opinion, traffic accidents are not more serious than other transportation problems. As we are about to enter the 21st century, we still have no definite and clear policy on how to tackle three major issues related to transportation.

1. The impacts of transportation on energy usage

It is important to point out that the transport sector in Jordan consumes an average of 40 per cent of the total primary energy every year and the cost of imported energy is about \$400 million a year. The cost of imported energy is about nine per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) or approximately 15 per cent of the total imports in 1993.

Despite all of this, the transport sector is not discussing the reduction of energy consumption which in turn saves money. The following factors result in increasing energy consumption by the transport sector:

- a. The increase in the number of private automobiles.
- b. The lack of good, clean, more available and reliable public transportation.
- c. The movements of people from the city centres to the suburbs, and.
- d. change in travel patterns.

2. The impacts of transportation on the environment

In most urban areas of Jordan, air quality problems have increased significantly in the last decade. There are

two interrelated reasons for this: the change in residential land use patterns and the shift of ridership away from mass transportation. Growing public awareness of the ecological and environmental problems resulting from the above two reasons has not led to any practical solutions to the pollution problem through establishing and implementing a clear air-pollution control policy.

The different modes of transportation are the major source of major pollutants. Carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxide, suspended particulates and photochemical oxidants have all been found to adversely affect public health.

Carbon monoxide reduces oxygen carrying capacity of hemoglobin, aggravates heart and lung diseases and may cause death from high exposure. Hydrocarbons cause respiratory damage and result in possible cancer from some types. Nitrogen oxides irritate lungs and aggravate respiratory and heart diseases. Photochemical oxidants affect the respiratory system, induce eye and skin irritations and aggravate heart and respiratory diseases. Despite the direct impacts of the different pollutants on people's health, there has not been enough attention paid to this issue.

3. Transportation system and land use

The need for passenger transportation services is dictated by people's need to participate in activities of various types (work, shop, visit friends and relatives, etc.) located in a variety of places dispersed over the urban region.

The definition of land use activities in an urban area and their relationship to the generation of trips is thus an important prerequisite for the analysis of transportation demand. The relation between the transportation and land use is an interrelated and complex one. The way we set our activities will have a great impact on the previous two issues (energy and

environment). Concentrated and high density settings land use is better than dispersed and low density activities.

A study conducted in 1974 by the Real Estate Research Corporation in the U.S. compared the costs of low density urban sprawl with those of high density planned developments. The study concluded that the high density, planned development would (1) reduce total capital costs by 56 per cent, (2) reduce operation and maintenance costs by 11 per cent, (3) save 43 per cent in development land costs, 40 per cent in land costs for streets and 63 per cent in land costs for utilities, (4) reduce local government costs by 50 per cent, (5) reduce automobile air pollution by 30 per cent, reduce air pollution from space heating and other natural gas uses by 40 per cent, reduce water sedimentation by 30 per cent, and reduces storm water runoff by 20 per cent, and (6) reduce energy consumption by 44 per cent and water consumption by 35 per cent. As a result, good land use planning can save money, improve environmental quality, and promote the efficient use of resources in developing communities.

As we face many serious problems in the transportation field, short term solutions must be developed through special technical committees. As far as the long-term solutions are concerned, the country must be patient and the chance and time must be given to the people who know the subject very well and who like to work quietly and seriously away from the media world. At last, and as some voices call for importing the experts to solve our transportation problems, it is fair to remember that the country has the people who have the ability and the will to serve their country without any return in mind.

The writer is a professor of transportation, planning and engineering at Mu'ta University. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

## U.S. pressure on Iran worries Gulf states

By Yousef Azme  
Reuter

DUBAI — Renewed United States pressure on Iran is viewed with some apprehension by oil-rich Arab neighbours across the Gulf, diplomats and officials said.

"We have to live with them," one Gulf official said of the Muslim fundamentalist rulers of Tehran, seen by Washington as sponsors of religious extremism and anti-Western sentiment.

The diplomats and officials said that even Saudi Arabia, Iran's traditional Arab rival across the Gulf, was unhappy with the renewed aggression in Washington's anti-Iran rhetoric.

"The main concern of Gulf Arabs is to maintain stability in this very sensitive and strategic region," one Arab diplomat said. "The latest American campaign does not help."

"The last thing they (Gulf Arabs) want is for Iran to feel isolated and under siege. This would not be conducive to stability in the Gulf," said another.

The concerns follow a Gulf tour last month by U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry when he spoke at length of potential threats from Iran and urged its neighbours to build up their defences in what many saw as a sales pitch for American arms.

U.S. officials were at the same denouncing what they said was a buildup of Iranian military muscle, including missiles, at the entrance of the Gulf, the route for about a quarter of the world's oil trade.

The concerns also coincide with a campaign by U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration to isolate Tehran economically after forcing the U.S. oil company Conoco to abandon a contract to develop an Iranian oilfield.

Tehran also believes strongly that Washington was behind the torpedoing of a Caspian oil deal that

would have given Iran a stake in an Azerbaijan oil consortium.

The Clinton administration has also proposed a ban on U.S. imports of Iranian oil, which account for more than 10 per cent of Tehran's oil sales.

And it was pressing allies in Europe and Japan to curtail badly needed credits and loans to Iran.

"Many in the Gulf do not see a justification for the new U.S. campaign," one Gulf diplomat said.

"The Gulf states do not, for example, see any significant change in Iran's military posture in the Gulf," he added.

"It is reminiscent of the discredited policy of double containment," he said of the policy announced when the Clinton team took power two years ago which sought to contain both Iran and Iraq and was criticised as counter-productive.

U.S. allies in Europe, Japan and the Gulf saw double containment as misguided, the diplomats said.

They believed that while Iraq appeared unrepentant after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Iran's pragmatic President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was working hard for an accommodation with his neighbours and the rest of the world.

"They (Washington) stopped talking about double containment for a time but they seem to have come back to it with a vengeance, and that is worrying for many people," one Western diplomat said.

Mr. Rafsanjani, bogged down in economic problems, was struggling to maintain his policies against radicals within and outside parliament trying to drag Iran back to the militancy of the early years of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"There is a view in this part of the world that prosperity is the only thing that would blunt the edge of Iranian militancy," the Western diplomat said.

"A hungry and aggressive Iran is the last thing Gulf Arabs want," he added.

## Yeltsin struggles to revitalise presidency

By Timothy Heritage  
Reuter

MOSCOW — Four months after Boris Yeltsin sent Russian troops into Chechnya, he is still reeling from the blow the conflict has dealt to his presidency and his chances of winning a second term look slim.

Opinion polls show Mr. Yeltsin's popularity at rock bottom, mainly because of widespread revulsion at the violence since Dec. 11 to crush Chechnya's independence drive.

Although the economy is looking up and Mr. Yeltsin has committed himself to reforms, critics question the firmness of his grip on power and fear hawks could persuade him to postpone presidential and parliamentary elections.

"One of the most notable victims of the war in Chechnya has become the authority of President Yeltsin, whose (approval) rating has fallen catastrophically," said Leonid Sedov of the Independent All-Russian Public Opinion Centre (VTSIOM).

The conclusion from the results of our opinion polls is that holding presidential elections is an unlikely scenario of events," Mr. Sedov said after the centre's latest polls, published in the Sevodnya newspaper at the weekend.

Presidential aides firmly deny there are any plans to scrap the elections and have dropped broad hints in the last few days that Mr. Yeltsin will seek a second five-year term in the presidential voting, expected in June next year.

Opinion polls have proved unreliable in Russia in the past. But a trend in all of them is hard to ignore.

VTSIOM said approval of Mr. Yeltsin's actions was below three on a scale of 10.

The Itogi current affairs television programme put

public faith in the president late last month at six per cent.

The Independent Public Opinion Fund found only three per cent of people polled said they were likely to choose Mr. Yeltsin as their presidential candidate, compared with 11 per cent support for the top candidate — economist Grigory Yavlinsky.

The Chechnya campaign is widely perceived as the main cause of Mr. Yeltsin's declining popularity. While many Russians wanted Chechnya reined in, they did not like the methods used to do so.

Other causes include Mr. Yeltsin's failure to end speculation that he is ill or likes a drink. Several stumbling performances during the Chechnya campaign have not helped him and he looks a shadow of the energetic man who once enjoyed huge support.

However, any rival would be rash to write off Mr. Yeltsin, 64, who says he is at his best when fighting himself out of a corner. His best trump card still appears to be that there is no obvious alternative. Some rivals, such as ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, deeply alarm some Russians as well.

"In my opinion, elections should have been postponed for a couple of years because it is clear that as a result we will get a much worse parliament and president," said Oleg Boiko, who recently defected from the liberal Russia's Choice Party.

Mr. Yeltsin's advisers dismiss such proposals. They also deny that an inner circle of hardliners, who could urge him to scrap the elections, bides sway in the Kremlin.

"The president controls the situation. And I say this not just because I am part of the administration," Mark Umov, head of the Presidential Analytical Centre, said.

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## Features

## For Israelis, appeal of 'separation' is its vagueness

By Barton Gellman

**BET JALA, Occupied West Bank** — There was no use arguing with the soldiers, and Tawfik Natshe did not bother for long. The barrel-chested Palestinian blacksmith had a job to do in Jerusalem but no permit to cross the Israeli roadblocks at the city's southern approach.

No matter, Mr. Natshe did what thousands like him do every day: He walked just out of sight, cut through a stand of olive trees and began the short journey on foot. Within 20 minutes he was in Jerusalem, climbing into his employer's car.

It would not be quite correct to say that Mr. Natshe found a hole in the border. For practical purposes, there is no border between Israel and the lands it conquered in the 1967 Middle East war.

Recently, however, Israel's government has revived a powerful idea. It goes by a single word, "separation," and it stands for a dream of lives apart for two peoples locked in an often ugly embrace.

The notion has been part of Israel's political discourse, on and off, since at least the Gulf war. But the emphasis of earlier debates was economic.

Now, according to the defense writer Zeev Schiff, "the military dimension has been added." Israel's police minister, Moshe Shahal, has drawn up a plan to use dogs, horses, dune buggies, aircraft and electronic sensors in a billion-dollar effort to keep the Palestinians on their side of the divide.

Popularized as a political slogan by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and described by some allies as central to his reelection hopes, separation is a profound challenge to the status quo. About 130,000 settlers make their homes in the occupied West Bank; as much as half the Palestinian labour force is employed in Israel, building homes for Jews and picking their crops.

The debate on separation



Palestinians working in Israel cross the Erez checkpoint to return home on April 13, as Israel prohibited Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from entering Israel from Thursday April 13 midnight until Sunday April 16 midnight (AFP photo)

comes amid efforts to negotiate peace between the two peoples, and in many ways it reflects Israeli disenchantment with the results. A grim-faced Mr. Rabin resurrected the term on national television the night a suicide bomber killed 23 bus passengers in Tel Aviv in October.

Separation "is a sign that the Israelis expect a bad peace rather than a good peace," said Samir Abdulah, chief economist for the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction. "It is a kind of dog to medicate the bad peace."

One of Mr. Rabin's closest advisers concurred. "As a long-term goal," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity, "it reflects some sort of despair."

Mr. Natshe's easy walk to Jerusalem, and its many variants, illustrate some of

the complexities. Israelis and Palestinians may dream of divorce, but their bonds remain intricate and deep.

It is not only that Mr. Natshe wants the work and his Israeli friend wants to give it to him — which, writ large, accounts for 30 per cent of the income of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, not to mention politically valuable price stability in Israel's housing market.

Neither is it only that the so-called Green Line between Israel and the West Bank is indelible on the ground and difficult to imagine as an enforceable border.

The broader challenge, for Mr. Rabin, is that he has not come to grips with the political implications of the idea. Those include the location of the line — Mr. Rabin rejects return to pre-1967 boundaries but has

not yet proposed an alternative — and the nature of the "entity" on the other side. Environment Minister Yossi Sarid sparked a firestorm in parliament last month by predicting a Palestinian state.

Most difficult of all is the relationship between separation and the continued growth of West Bank settlements.

Even so, the mere idea of separation reflects a profound change in political psychology for many Israelis.

David Newman, an Israeli geographer, notes that after the 1967 war successive governments tried to "erase" the border between Israel and the West Bank territories, literally removing the line from official maps.

Ezrahi, "is a very important idea against the colonial past of this country. It is an answer to the expansionists, a commitment to Israel's readiness for borders and a clear delineation where 'they' start and where 'we' end."

Mr. Rabin's principal aim, according to one official who is deeply involved in the subject, is a form of political jujitsu — an attempt to reverse the damage caused by terror attacks. Don't use terror as an excuse to give up on Palestinian self-rule, Mr. Rabin tells the angry electorate.

Instead, let's get the Arabs out of our lives. "The main target," one senior official said, "is internal politics."

But the appeal of the slogan, Mr. Ezrahi said, requires vagueness. To various constituencies, he said, it means safety, a

Palestinian state, a code word for nipping of Jewish settlements, even "a euphemism for blockade of the Palestinian population."

"It is an extremely useful bundle of political messages, but if Rabin tries to turn it into policy it may boomerang, because all the contradictions become manifest," he said.

Mr. Shahal, according to officials familiar with his plan, wants to avoid a debate over drawing the border by declaring a "separation zone" ranging in depth from a few hundred metres to a couple of kilometres. "If you put up a fence, that's a line," said one army major. "It can be marked on a map. If you have a 'zone' you can't fence."

Many in the army and, reportedly, in the Shin Bet security service, suspect

Mr. Shahal of bureaucratic empire-building and harbour serious doubts about the effectiveness of all the high-technology patrols. Terrorist acts, even large ones, require only a modest number of trips across the border, and no one believes foot traffic can be brought to a halt.

The economic impact, on the other hand, would undoubtedly be dramatic. Roughly half of the Gaza Strip labour force, and nearly one-third of the West Bank's, depend on employment in Israel, according to Mr. Shahal and World Bank estimates. A closure that was 90 per cent effective might not stop political violence, an Israeli official acknowledged, but it could bring Gaza "maybe even to the starving point."

Although Israel's economy would also be hurt by

closing down the flow of cheap, semi-skilled labour, Mr. Abdullah, a Palestinian economist, said, "you can't compare the impact on your \$3 billion economy to the impact on their \$60 billion economy."

Erje Larsen, a Norwegian academic who coordinates U.N. projects in Palestinian territories, said existing forms of closure — used off and on by Mr. Rabin after terrorist attacks began a year ago — "cost Palestinians \$1 million a day in salaries and another \$1 million a day in indirect effects: so in 300 days it amounts to \$600 million, which is the combined amount pledged in donations by the international community."

Israel's answer is a proposal to build eight industrial zones along the borders to provide jobs for Palestinians who now work in Israel. The United States is trying to sweeten that somewhat improbable idea for capitalists by promising to make goods manufactured in the zones exempt from U.S. import tariffs. But in the best of circumstances it will take years for the zones to generate large numbers of jobs.

Until now Israel's government has treated separation as an internal matter, declining to negotiate its terms with Yasser Arafat's limited self-rule authority. The Palestinians, for their part, fear that it will come at their expense.

"What Rabin is practicing," said Saeb Erekat, one of Arafat's chief negotiators, "is suffocation in the name of separation."

In one sense, according to one of Mr. Rabin's closest aides, Mr. Erekat has a point. Israel's government, he said, does not believe that Mr. Arafat is doing all he can to stop terror attacks. Mr. Rabin's use of closures, and his call for a broader separation, are intended "as a warning to the Palestinians."

"They," the official said, "will suffer from separation not us."

The Washington Post

## King, Queen return home

(Continued from page 1)

tenure. He has always been a friend to us."

The visit to the United States, the King said, "was successful in every sense of the word."

"Certain matters which caused us some worries were not justified because the current stage in the U.S. is characterized as a dispute between the U.S. administration and the legislative authority, and Jordan had nothing to do with it."

The United States fully supports Jordan, and therefore, we expect the results to turn out in a manner that would meet our satisfaction in the near future because the United States fully realizes its leading role and we expect Washington to take steps in favour of supporting and backing Jordan in all fields."

The King said his visit to Canada was positive and fruitful, adding that the Canadian government had pledged to support Jordan.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor were received at the airport by their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammed, Princess Taghreed, Crown Prince

Hassan, Princess Sarvath and Princess Basma and other royal family members.

Also present to receive the King was Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, speakers of Parliament, cabinet members, the King's advisors and other officials as well as the ambassadors of France, the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada in Jordan.

Returning with the King and the Queen were their Royal Highnesses Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein and Prince Talal Ben Mohammad.

Planning Minister Rima Khalaf, who accompanied the King on his visits to the U.S. and Canada, said the economic outcome of the visits was very successful and has achieved all the aspired goals.

In statements to the press upon the arrival home of King Hussein and Queen Noor, Ms. Khalaf said all members of Congress who met with the King promised to write off all of Jordan's \$480 million remaining debts to the U.S.

There were internal American disputes on the amount that should be forgiven of the debts and on the way this should be done, she said.

## Jordan welcomes U.N. offer

(Continued from page 1)

agree to international supervision of its nuclear facilities. Israel's refusal to join the treaty has caused a major crisis with Egypt, which said it would not vote for a renewal of the treaty unless Israel agrees to sign it too. Israel reportedly has about 200 nuclear warheads but refuses to sign the NPT or to declare itself a nuclear power.

Mr. Kabarti said Jordan has not yet decided on how it will vote on the treaty, on which the U.N. will vote on May 25. He said he will be

holding talks on the issue with Arab foreign ministers participating in the debate over the treaty in New York and with foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement, who will meet in Bandung, Indonesia, next month.

The United States is pushing for an indefinite renewal of the treaty as Third World countries are expected to table resolutions demanding definite extension.

Jordan has said that its decision on the treaty will be in line with the decisions of the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement.

## Iraq to reject U.N. plan

(Continued from page 1)

"More struggle and steadfastness are needed to defend Iraq's rights, counter the injustice it is suffering because of the cruel sanctions and strengthen the position of compassionate nations inside and outside the Security Council at the next session,"

the council said. The council said the draft would be referred to parliament. No time was set for a parliament meeting.

Within hours of the statement, the government said it was increasing the monthly quota of flour

## Meeting held on university row

(Continued from page 1)

people crowded around the area where Mr. Lawzi, Mr. Srour and other community leaders were seated, demanding to express their demands.

Tayseer Khushman, the father of one of the students beaten during the clashes, criticised university administration for not taking prompt action to end the fight.

Also he said that the university hospital would not allow him and his wife to enter the hospital to see their son, and told them to go to the police station instead.

He charged that some of the Circassians involved in the fight were not students. He said the hospital administration would not supply him with a medical report and they tried to file a complaint with the prosecutor general but "the prosecutor general refused to accept our complaints."

The angry crowd then urged Senator Marwan Hmoud, a prominent leader from Salt, to express their demands.

## PNA reaffirms pledge

(Continued from page 1)

and Israel," he said. The groups could participate in planned Palestinian elections and decision-making, but were compelled by law to respect the peace deal with Israel, Mr. Abdul Rahim said.

"National dialogue should be based on respecting the PLO-Israeli accord," he said. In Jerusalem Islamic Jihad released a videotape showing an armed guerrilla it said was Khaled Khatib, who blew himself up in one of last Sunday's attacks on a bus.

The guerrilla, who posed with an assault rifle, then appeared dressed as an Israeli combat soldier, urged youths to follow his example of martyrdom and jihad.

"Martyrdom is the noblest desire," he said. "The heaven of Islam awaits me."

Mr. Abdul Rahim said Mr. Arafat rejected claims by Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups that military attacks against Israeli targets would strengthen his negotiating position with Israel.

"The majority of the

Mr. Hmoud told the gathering that parliamentarians came to assure the Salt people that there was a problem that needed to be solved, and demands that needed to be met.

Mr. Hmoud demanded that if investigations proved that there were outsiders involved then they should be punished.

University of Jordan student Saif Abdullah said he was one of the students beaten up in the brawl, and that he had not received a medical report.

"We were beaten by non-students and we want to know who did the government question so far and we want our complete rights because we were beaten and humiliated," he said.

The student criticised the government for its handling of the incident and demanded that Deputy Prime Minister Adul Raouf Rawabdeh resign.

Saltis accuse Mr. Rawabdeh of trying to appease Circassians at their expense.

Another student, Marwan Faouri, speaking on behalf of

the youth in Salt, said: "We have demands and if you came to us as judges we accept, but if you came to us to hush things up we strongly refuse."

Speaker Srour said that he and his colleagues appreciated the bitterness that the people of Salt felt.

"We are aware of all what happened and we are going to tell His Majesty and all the officials and decision makers of all your demands," Mr. Srour said.

He urged them to wait for the results of the investigations.

Also Saturday Minister of Justice Hisham Tal announced that an investigation committee headed by the Sweiheh prosecutor general was formed to investigate the incident, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh also formed a university committee to study "the phenomena of campus violence and its motives and to come up with an objective and scientific theory to be presented to the university administration within a two-week period."

Fathi Shakaki told the Arabic daily Al Hayat: "The waiting lists for suicide attacks have thousands of names."

"Thousands of Palestinians are ready to carry out suicide attacks against the Israeli occupiers," Mr. Shakaki said.

"The candidates are pushing to sign up and when there is a delay in their turn — because we cannot meet their wishes every day — they get angry."

He said "nobody will succeed in disarming the mujahadeen."

"If Yasser Arafat tries to hunt us or disarm us it will give us more strength and extra reasons for escalating the resistance in the autonomous regions," Mr. Shakaki said.

Mr. Shakaki said the crackdown on militants was "the most serious" since the launch of Palestinian self-rule in May 1994, but stressed that Islamic Jihad and Hamas "will continue to resist armed conflict" between Palestinian groups.

"The attacks will continue as long as the Israeli occupation remains in force."



Dominique Voynet

## Greens' iron lady is youngest French candidate

By Francois Rattierberger  
Reuter

PARIS — Dominique Voynet, the iron lady of France's Greens, has raced down life's fast lane to become, at 36, the youngest candidate in this month's presidential election.

A doctor and a single mother, she forced her two male rivals out of the race and used the election campaign to establish her domination of the French ecologist movement.

Decried by opponents as vindictive and authoritarian, she is lauded by friends as a hurricane of a woman with a sharp mind who enjoys working under stress.

"I love life. I'll never have time to see all the films I want to see, hear all the music I want to hear," she says.

Ms. Voynet, who attended her first political demonstration at the age of 10 to protest against death sentences on Basque separatists under Spanish dictator Francisco Franco, certainly spends more time at work and in political meetings than at concerts or cinema halls.

"She did everything early," her mother says. "She

was ahead at school, she started work early, she had a baby at 19."

Daughter of socialist parents, Ms. Voynet was born in 1958, the year General Charles de Gaulle founded France's Fifth Republic.

She worked as a night nurse to fund her medical studies and became active in the ecology movement at 18, campaigning against nuclear power. She was a co-founder of the French Greens at 26.

Attractive, tough and fiercely independent, she recently told an interviewer on a live radio programme to "P... off."

"He wanted to shine at my expense," she explained later.

As the Green's spokeswoman, Ms. Voynet ousted party president Antoine Waechter after the divided ecologist movement failed to win a single seat in a 1993 parliamentary election.

Accusing her of being too much of a politician and too far to the left, Mr. Waechter, a dour environmental purist, founded the rival independent ecology movement, whose motto is "neither right or left."

He was humiliatedly left off the presidential ballot

last week after falling 30 short of the required 500 endorsements from elected officials.

A third Green candidate, former environment minister Brice Lalonde, dropped out after coming under strong pressure from Ms. Voynet not to split the ecologist vote and failing to win more than one per cent in opinion polls.

In a country less bothered about the environment than its north European neighbours, surveys credit Ms. Voynet with below three per cent of the vote.

That is a far cry from the 14 per cent which two rival ecologist lists polled in regional elections in 1992, in what turned out to be a protest against the decaying Socialist Party rather than the emergence of a new political force.

But Ms. Voynet says she is not discouraged, arguing that neither of the candidates who reach the decisive May 7 run-off can afford to ignore the ecologist vote.

"Who are the main candidates? Those who win many votes or those who bring new ideas?" she asked.



# Economy

## Nabulsi: Dinar stability tops any other priority

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi has strongly defended high interest rates on the dinar and rejected suggestions that the currency be appreciated as an alternative to maintain its stability.

The CBJ governor said it was not feasible to appreciate the dinar at this point in time and pointed out that such a move would also adversely affect Jordan's exports of goods and services.

It was the first comment by Dr. Nabulsi on the subject amid complaints by commercial bankers and stock market dealers that high interest rates were posing liquidity problems in the market.

The bankers also suggest that the CBJ could appreciate the dinar instead of hiking interest rates to maintain the stability of the currency and its relative attraction over the American dollar for local depositors.

One of the main but indirect tools used by the CBJ to maintain the two-to-two and-a-half per cent interest rate edge over the American dollar is short- and medium-term certificates of deposits (CDs) with yields of up to 9.5 per cent.

The CBJ started issuing CDs by auction when it found that the interest rates on the American dollar was going up, attracting local depositors to convert their dinar holdings into the greenback, a prospect that is alarming to any central monetary authority.

Bankers and stock market

dealers say that investors were being lured to the CBJ-issued CDs, and, by extension, commercial banks also have to raise the yields they offer on dinar deposits to keep up with the increase.

Overnight inter-banking rates have also gone up dramatically since the last quarter of 1994.

Dr. Nabulsi, in an interview with the Jordan Times, conceded that there were liquidity problems in the market but said that the Central Bank, in its mandated task to defend the stability of the dinar, had little choice in the matter.

"The Central Bank's main instrument in monetary policy is interest rate," he noted. Control over "interest rates is given to the Central Bank, which can raise them or lower them according to the requirements of the monetary policy."

The CBJ's monetary policy, he said, "particularly when it comes to controlling inflation, but more importantly at the present time, controlling/defending the exchange rate itself is a policy that requires high interest rates."

"It is as simple as that," added Dr. Nabulsi.

"We cannot relax our mission, our duty, which has been set out in the law for the Central Bank... which requires the CBJ to apply a policy that would continue to protect the value of the currency against inflation and against unwarranted fluctuations."

"It is our duty that when we find that the only way to do this is to raise interest rates, we raise interest

rates," he said.

The governor, obviously with an eye on some bankers who have been unusually highly critical of the CBJ-engineered hike in interest rates since last year, said it was not as if the Central Bank was raising interest rates on a whim or fancy.

"We don't find (raising interest rates) amusing or entertaining for us," he said. "We know that interest rates have an adverse effect, but we have come to the conclusion that the adverse effect that we are facing now are way below their weight... when compared to the effects that could come if the interest rates were low."

Appreciation of the dinar is an option to maintain the edge of the currency, but Jordan cannot afford to do that at a time when the Kingdom is seeking export-led economic growth, Dr. Nabulsi said.

"We cannot appreciate the dinar," he said. "Our main objective has always been the kind of stability of the dinar as we see today. We cannot appreciate the dinar at this time definitely, neither in the context of the present reserves assets we have nor in the context of our general economic and trade policies."

"We would like our goods and services to be competitive in outside markets," Dr. Nabulsi said. "There is no way to keep them competitive except by applying a policy whereby we have not only a stable exchange rate but also a flexible exchange rate which could be adjusted in accordance with our balance of payments situation."

## Japan wants yen as key world currency, sees U.S. economic power in decline

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan said Friday it would work with central banks around the world, particularly in Asia, to boost the yen as a key international currency as U.S. economic influence declined.

Takafumi Kaneko, a deputy director of Japan's Economic Planning Agency, said the United States appeared no longer capable of maintaining the dollar as a stable world currency.

"It's becoming difficult for the USA to discharge the same responsibility as it did in the past with different circumstances," Mr. Kaneko said Friday at a briefing on the government's economic package to counter the surging yen.

"The economic power of the USA is on the decline and that of Japan, in relative terms, is increasing," he said, adding that Japan wanted the yen to become a key world currency.

Mr. Kaneko said the U.S. government has domestic concerns that override its responsibilities to support the dollar internationally. He was apparently referring to Washington's perceived desire to let the dollar fall as a way of making U.S. exports cheaper overseas.

Japan's new initiative on the international use of the yen, including business transactions between third countries in yen, is a key element of the economic measures announced on Friday, Mr. Kaneko said.

"We will work toward the internationalisation of the yen," he said.

The yen has appreciated 16 per cent against the dollar since the beginning of the year, hitting a record high of around 80 last week, making Japanese exports more expensive and threatening Japan's fragile economic recovery.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Michel Camdessus called Friday for the United States to raise interest rates to bolster the dollar.

In a statement, Mr. Camdessus welcomed Japan's decision Friday to move its discount rate down three-quarters of a point and said that it was now "opportune" for the U.S. Federal Reserve to raise its short-term interest rates.

The lowering of the Japanese rate, coupled with last month's drop in interest rates by the German Bundesbank "should also help to alleviate pressures on foreign exchange markets," Mr. Camdessus said.

"The large and rapid exchange rate changes that we have seen recently pose a risk of higher inflation in the United States, threaten to weaken the dollar, expansion in Europe, and could jeopardize recovery in Japan," Mr. Camdessus said.

"I believe it is now opportune for the United States to complement these actions by raising its short-term interest rates," the IMF head said.

"This would contribute to a strengthening of the dollar, which would be appropriate given its role as the key international currency. It would also help contain the domestic inflationary pressures that will result from a weak dollar," he added.

Meanwhile, Indonesia and Thailand are expected to be worst hit by the steep appreciation of the yen against the dollar, according to a study of nine Asian economies.

The study was conducted by American investment house Salomon Brothers.

It warned that a further deterioration of trade or current account balances of the two countries caused by the rise of the yen "could have wider implications in terms of the potential knock-on effects on short term capital flows and interest rates."

The yen appreciated by 14.5 per cent against the Indonesian rupiah and 12 per cent against the Thai baht between January and March, the period covered by the study.

The Japanese currency has moved fairly uniformly against currencies closely linked to the U.S. dollar,

such as the Thai and Indonesian currencies, as well as the Hong Kong dollar and China's renminbi.

The yen's movement against the Malaysian ringgit was also seen in a range similar to the linked currencies.

"The appreciation of the yen could lead to some deterioration of the bilateral and, hence, overall trade balances in the Asian countries surveyed, with Indonesia and Thailand leading the group as a result of their relatively high overall trade dependence on Japan," Salomon Brothers said.

Indonesia, primarily because of its oil exports, was the only one among the nine Asian economies surveyed by Salomon Brothers which had an overall bilateral surplus with Japan.

"Hence, the appreciation of the yen may well decrease the portion of the surplus which does not reflect U.S. dollar-priced goods, such as oil," it said.

Indonesia, however, was a special case, because the servicing of its large yen-denominated foreign debt could impact its current account, Salomon Brothers said.

Apart from Indonesia and Thailand, the other countries covered under the survey were the Philippines, South Korea, China, Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The survey showed that the yen appreciated most strongly against the Philippine peso — by 20.8 per cent — but the Philippines was not the hardest hit because Japanese imported goods represented a smaller proportion of total Manila imports than for other Asian economies.

Salomon Brothers also said the stronger yen may lead to "windows of opportunity" for South Korea and Taiwan to compete effectively against Japanese exports in regional and international markets.

The yen had appreciated 10.3 per cent against the South Korean won and 11.5 per cent against the Taiwan dollar.

Salomon Brothers said institutional investors in Japan and foreign issuers of Euro-yen instruments might be unwilling to take further exchange rate risks following the Japanese currency's steep appreciation.

"This could mean that as these sources of capital outflows are reduced, the exchange rate will have to bear more of the burden of returning the currency market to equilibrium," it said.

## APEC finance ministers haunted by currencies

SANUR, Indonesia (R) — Asia-Pacific finance ministers gathered in Bali Saturday to discuss strategies to handle new realities of the world's money markets — from Mexico's dramatic collapse to Japan's soaring yen.

The talks kicked off with an inaugural meeting of financiers from the 18 member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). They issued recommendations designed to improve capital flow for infrastructure development.

These recommendations will be discussed at a one-day Sunday meeting of finance ministers — including those from the United States and Japan — who have made it clear they also intend to pursue more pressing bilateral trade and currency issues.

"I don't believe the (world) open market system can function the way it should when the second largest economy in the world has substantially less access to it than the other major nations," U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said of Japan before arriving here early Saturday.

The yen's rise, to close the week slightly above 83 to the dollar, has prompted Japan to issue a package of measures, including a cut in the discount rate that has been welcomed by other countries but apparently discounted by the market.

Japan appears happy with the moves. Bank of Tokyo Chairman Toyoo Gyohten told Reuters the package would "alleviate concerns about the near-term future of the Japanese economy."

Whatever goes on in the rooms of the Grand Bali Beach, one of Bali's larger hotels, between individual

ministers, the meeting itself focussed on loftier, long-term goals.

Apart from general talk about recent economic developments, it will discuss three key areas: Issues linked to capital movement, effect of exchange rate movement on trade and investment and how to mobilise resources for infrastructure financing.

Bankers at a three-hour meeting at a hotel in the tourist sprawl of Kuta came out with a set of recommendations which, while no made public, covered removing obstacles to the flow of capital among members economies, participants said.

"We discussed capital flow to ensure sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region," Pridiyathorn Devakula, president of the Export-Import Bank of Thailand, said during the meeting.

The ministers are due to start their discussions Sunday after a formal opening by Indonesian Vice-President Try Sutrisno.

Beyond Japanese-U.S. trade and currency friction, an obvious issue is this year's crisis in Mexico, another member economy of the fledgling APEC forum. Financiers said it provided a useful lesson but would not preoccupy the meeting.

"The Mexican crisis was a device which helped us in this meeting to focus on some of the fundamental improvements which all our economies need to make including the U.S. economy by the way which is heavily dependent on the input of foreign capital which is used to finance very large current account deficit," Goldman Sachs International Vice-Chairman Robert Hormats said.

## S.Korea cautiously opens door to foreign labour

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea is cautiously opening its doors to more foreign workers this year as the economy feels the pinch of an acute labour shortage in sectors shunned by increasingly affluent and choosy locals.

The number of foreigners toiling on building sites, in sweatshops and service industries could pass the 100,000 mark this year with Seoul's decision to admit 10,000 more workers in 1995, on top of the current 85,000.

The quota for new entrants excludes those who come illegally. Such workers now form the bulk of foreigners already employed in South Korea.

The foreign-labour population is low by the standards of East Asian "dragon" economies — tiny Singapore has more than 300,000 guest workers — but there is mounting pressure to open up.

The Asian Development Bank warns it will be a "difficult challenge" to "regulate

the entry of foreign labour, given the acute scarcity of workers in construction, manufacturing and other blue-collar jobs vacated by Koreans."

A report by the Manila-based bank noted that racially homogenous Korean society "remains wary about the socio-cultural consequences of the immigration of foreign nationals."

South Korea, whose economy is forecast to grow a robust seven per cent over the next two years after an impressive 8.4 per cent last year, enjoys virtually full employment with a jobless rate of about two per cent.

Labour and other costs are rising so fast that light manufacturing industries have moved en masse overseas, and Seoul is pushing for more high-technology ventures that are less labour-intensive.

There is another problem: Young Koreans are refusing

to dirty their hands, opting to don a coat and tie even if they will earn less than labourers.

Yoo Jang-Hee, president of the semi-official Korea Institute for International Economic Policy, said "basic" manufacturing should normally be done by young locals.

"But these guys do not want to take up those kinds of jobs, so we have a severe labour shortage," he said. "That is one of the reasons why we have to import foreign workers."

He said the average wage increase for all industries in 1994 was 13 per cent, but for unskilled workers it was more than 25 per cent, reflecting the shortage.

"It's funny. These simple, unskilled construction workers nowadays are getting more than entry-level college graduates at Samsung," he said.

Despite new opportunities, South Korea is no paradise

for foreign workers. Winters are harsh, working conditions can be brutal, the language is difficult to learn.

There are countless tales of abuse, ranging from long working hours and late wages to beatings by Korean factory bosses, who are not famous for soft management techniques even in joint-venture firms overseas.

President Kim Young-Sam has asked employers to treat foreign workers humanely, saying the country had been criticised abroad for abuses, and labour officials vow to promote wage equality regardless of race.

Official figures show that of the 85,000 foreign workers in the country, about 50,000 work illegally, exposing them to rampant abuse.

The government conducts periodic raids on factories to root out illegal workers, but most of the time looks the other way because of the labour shortage.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 16, 1995  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) It's important you are most conventional today even though inward pleasure is great to do otherwise, be happy.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You are apt to upset the applecart today since you are discontent, but remain calm and know that you are doing fine.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Be careful not to get lured into any new interests today which do not appeal to you and which another may try to pressure you into.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Use care in any public activities and keep out of trouble today. This is a good day to ask a big favour.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Any risks you take today could bring trouble, so use much care. Avoid that new acquaintance whose ideas are radically different.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You have made promises which should be kept today without fail. Don't ring up any disputable subjects with a good friend.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Although you like to carefully analyse a matter before reaching a decision, a partner might try to hasten you into it.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Make this a day of rest so that you can restore your energies and be ready for a busy week ahead. You can learn a great deal now.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You want to lambast your mate for some fancied wrong, and this would not be wise. Be more kind and tactful instead.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Don't try to force your views on those who dwell with you or a bad quarrel result; and there could be bad results.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Make today a quiet and sensible one and don't go running around, hither and yon. Avoid a possible accident while on the highway today.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Plan how you can get your money matters in better shape, and don't make any investments or spend beyond your ken.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

## Peanuts



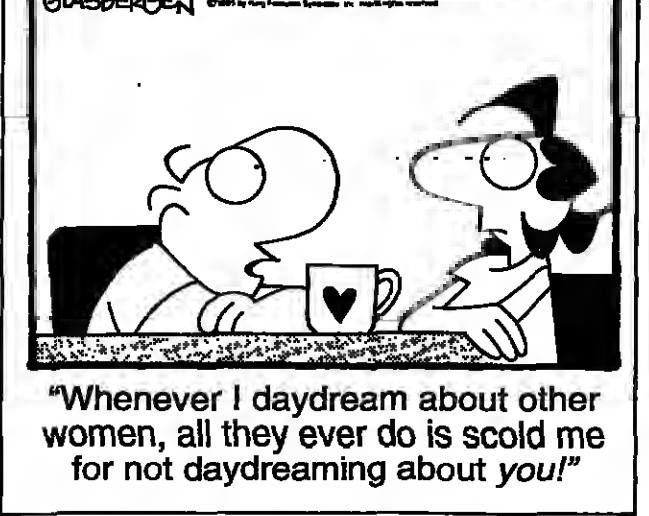
## Andy Capp



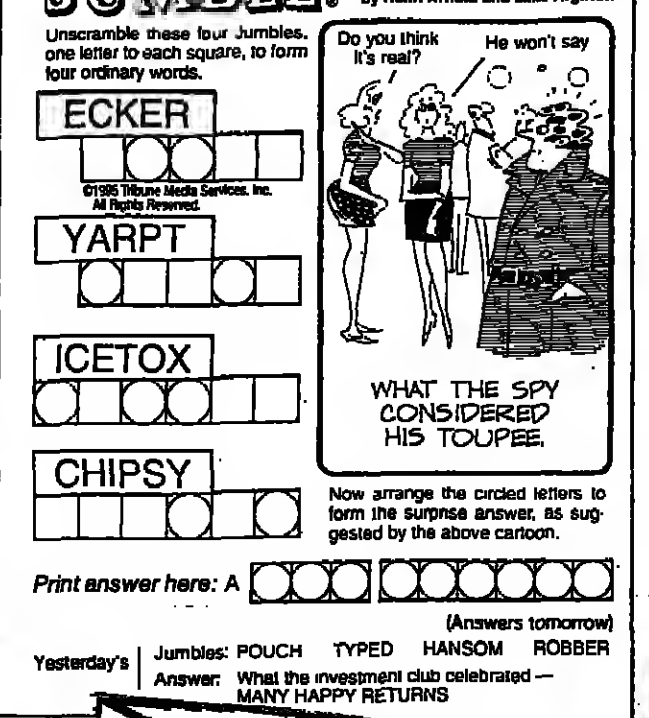
## Mutt'n'Jeff



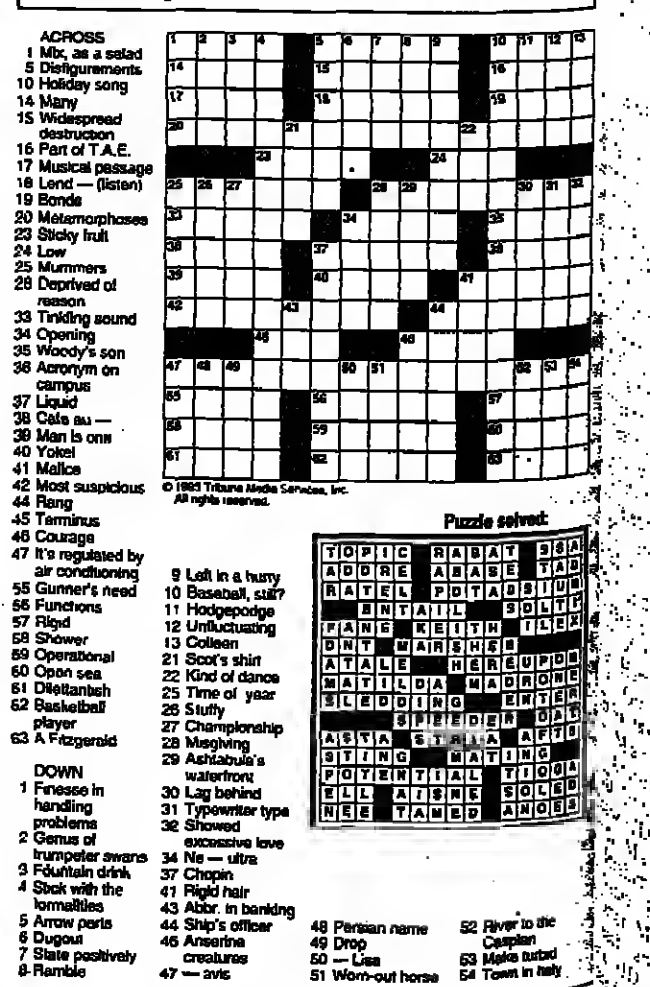
## THE BETTER HALF



## JUMBLE



## THE Daily Crossword





## Clintons pay \$55,313 in federal income taxes

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary paid \$55,313 in 1994 federal income taxes on an adjusted gross income of \$263,900 and were eligible for a refund of \$14,418, their tax return showed Friday.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry used the release of the Clinton's form 1040 to try to make a political point — that the president's tax policies that fall more heavily on the rich are fairer than Republican tax proposals.

"It's clear from (the Clintons' tax return) that they would be enormous beneficiaries of tax cuts as proposed by the Republican majority in Congress... he (the president) thinks that's unfair and that tax relief ought to be targeted on middle-income Americans," Mr. McCurry said.

The Clintons' return, released by the White House three days prior to the federal income tax filing deadline, which this year falls on April 17, showed they were over-withheld by \$14,418 and elected to apply \$7,500 of their refund to taxes on this year's income.

The bulk of their income came from the president's salary of \$200,000, but it also included \$1,421 in residual payments for Clinton's saxophone-toting Cameo appearance on the now-cancelled Arsenio Hall talk show in 1992.

The Clintons also reported \$21,259 in interest and dividends and an unspecified capital gain of \$38,014.

The White House said \$12,000 of the unearned income came from the Henry G. Freeman pin money fund, which under a 1912 will bequeathed a sum of money each year to whomever is the spouse of the president.

Mrs. Clinton intends to donate the money to charity, the White House said. The Clinton's tax return showed charitable contributions of \$30,125 in 1994, their largest write-off. It was followed by \$10,000 in tax preparation and legal fees.

Mr. McCurry said the

## Arab Gulf states to float \$296 million in new projects

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states have identified new projects worth around \$296 million to be carried out by the private sector as part of reforms to offset weak oil prices, officials have said.

Officials and businessmen from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will discuss the projects in Oman on April 17, according to Mahmoud Al Jarwani, director of the Muscat stock exchange.

"The projects to be presented at the meeting are part of efforts to encourage the private sector to set up industrial ventures," he told AFP by telephone from Muscat. "Some of them could be carried out in Oman and the others in the remaining members of the GCC."

The projects cover chemicals, plastics, metals, engineering and pharmaceutical industries and have been determined feasible by the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC).

"Such projects, if carried out, could provide more than 900 new job opportunities," said GOIC, which advises on GCC industrial policies.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar,

Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have pumped around \$41 billion into the industrial sector as part of attempts to diversify their oil-reliant economies.

Around \$12 billion has been invested over the past six years, boosting the total industrial units to around 5,700. Nearly half of the investments are based in Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil power.

The campaign has boosted non-oil industrial exports, mostly light products, to around \$12 billion a year from less than \$7 billion in 1985.

Their contribution to the gross domestic product also surged to around nine per cent in 1993 from six per cent in 1985.

"Industrial development in the GCC has become a vital issue for the government and businessmen given its major role in diversifying sources of income and reducing dependence on oil," GOIC said.

GCC states, which produce around one fifth of the world's total crude supplies, have been hit hard by weak oil prices, with their income plunging to an average of \$70 billion a year from above \$180 billion in 1981.

## P.O. sets up unit in Jebel Ali

DUBAI (R) — British shipping and construction group the Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. (P.O.) has said it was setting up a Gulf warehousing and distribution operation at Dubai's Jebel Ali free zone port.

P.O. Containers Ltd's Gulf General Manager Peter Low told Reuters the new company, P.O. Gulf Logistics, would start operations by the end of April.

He said it was being established to meet growing demand for warehousing and distribution in the oil-rich region, which is a net importer of goods.

"A number of our shippers have come to us and asked if we will provide this service for them, which we are doing," he pointed out.

Mr. Low said the new company would operate as an autonomous unit. "It will operate as a totally independent company... it will be its own profit centre," he said.

The head of P.O. Gulf Logistics, Roger Surrall, said the company had leased two warehouses at the Jebel Ali free zone in United Arab Emirates' member Dubai.

"They are not big com-

pared to the warehouses in Europe, but we have to learn to crawl here before we can walk," Mr. Surrall said.

He said the company was taking advantage of Dubai's location between Europe and the Far East and its proximity to India. "We are also taking advantage of the fact that P.O. is already in containers and it has a huge customer network."

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COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	240	46170	191.750	192.750
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	10500	51144	4.890	4.820
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	1780	8207	4.750	4.670
BANK OF JORDAN	743	2669	3.550	3.600
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	51650	82906	1.600	1.600
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	850	2328	2.780	2.760
THE HOUSING BANK	63000	900146	7.580	7.960
JORDAN KIWAT BANK	5048	14682	2.920	2.930
JORDAN GULF BANK	26350	37251	1.370	1.380
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	5387	20653	3.820	3.860
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	300	1200	3.970	4.000
REIT REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	300	956	2.300	2.350
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	35850	108478	2.320	2.370
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	60450	112437	1.770	1.860
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>32449</b>	<b>98592</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 167.86</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.10%</b>
JORDAN PRIME INSURANCE	6500	18258	2.750	2.793
YAMOUK INSURANCE & RETIREMENT	420	1281	3.100	3.150
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	350	958	2.620	2.650
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>7270</b>	<b>20467</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 126.35</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.10%</b>
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	14823	24477	1.650	1.650
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	40950	64514	1.550	1.570
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	80804	581776	7.200	7.200
IRITO DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	250	273	1.040	1.090
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	4250	30535	7.100	7.150
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS / NEW	300	2320	7.500	7.050
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	7350	22859	2.960	3.110
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2100	4898	2.260	2.340
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	750	848	1.100	1.150
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	1850	1206	.660	.660
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	330	3426	10.250	10.400
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	95164	264516	2.730	2.760
JORDAN ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	750	2520	3.350	3.360
JORDAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	250	313	1.250	1.250
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>250521</b>	<b>1004278</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 142.88</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.10%</b>
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	15221	46734	2.980	2.990
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	2185	567	2.550	2.590
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	3209	30202	9.380	9.400
THE JORDAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1791	6461	3.580	3.590
THE JORDAN NORTHERN MILLS	8150	8150	8.200	8.200
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	24624	101571	4.320	4.320
JORDAN DALRY	1875	1875	2.400	2.400
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	450	1215	2.700	2.700
SPINNING & WEAVING	17250	46003	2.670	2.670
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1650	13191	7.950	8.000
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	91000	86734	2.730	2.760
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	650	4705	7.250	7.250
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	40214	27873	.670	.680
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	79250	127257	1.570	1.600
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JISCO	250	665	2.530	2.530
JORDAN ROCKET INDUSTRIES	1750	2095	1.190	1.200
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	200	850	4.200	4.250
ALABON INDUSTRIES	500	2175	4.300	4.350
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JISCO	8350	5843	.670	.700
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1650	7838	4.700	4.750
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	11600	19604	1.610	1.690
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	8200	19493	2.350	2.370
KAWTHER INVESTMENT	1000	1632	1.580	1.650
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	7250	25681	3.460	3.540
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6550	13265	1.990	2.020
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>327184</b>	<b>607099</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 121.88</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.84%</b>
<b>ORANO TOTAL</b>	<b>897474</b>	<b>2621442</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 147.17</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.90%</b>
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		130731		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		481711		

## Flow of financial accounts continues

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

NET PROFIT posted by the Industrial Development Bank dropped from JD 3.2 million at the end of 1993 to JD 2.2 million at the end of 1994. The decline was also evident in the number and volume of loans extended by the bank as 147 loans amounting to JD 29.7 million were approved last year compared to 170 loans amounting to JD 34.7 million in 1993. The bank's chairman attributed the drop to the political developments on one hand and the large volume of capital that flowed in setting up new companies on the other hand. Profit from share trading at the Amman Financial Market fell by JD 554,000 and commission earnings from brokerage of share deals declined by JD 198,000. The participation in building a school, setting up a new branch for the bank and other humanitarian contributions resulted in reducing net profit by another JD 210,000. The bank invested JD 1.2 million in five projects last year compared to JD 300,000 of investments in 1993. The board of directors is recommending the distribution of JD 761,250 in dividends at a rate of 12 per cent (Al Dustour).

THE MACHINERY Equipment Renting and Maintenance Company posted a loss last year as a result of low construction activity and limited availability of projects. The company sought to diversify its investments and shifted to the Amman Financial Market but the move was unsuccessful as the stock exchange went into a continuous retreat. Despite the gloomy picture, the company's annual report showed a high liquidity of nearly JD 600,000 or so per cent of the company's capital. According to the report, the company earned JD 380,000 from renting equipment, increased its portfolio of share investments to JD 117,000 and spent JD 112,000 on purchasing 6,631 square metres of land from the Industrial Estates Corporation, Sahab, to set up a maintenance workshop. In 1994, the company began to provide repair and maintenance services to small road-rollers owned by the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and is planning to widen this service to other equipment for the ministry. The company also plans to use its workshop to provide repair and maintenance services to all equipment of government institutions (Al Aswaq).

ACCORDING TO the annual report of the Government Tenders Department, the volume of central tenders in 1994 amounted to JD 116,445,898 awarded through 171 tenders (Al Rai).

THE GENERAL ENGINEERING Industries (GEI), a new public shareholding company registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Feb. 28, 1995 with a capital of JD 5 million, is floating 1,811,750 shares for public subscription at JD 1 per cent value. The company aims at setting up a foundry for casting of auto parts and other products such as central heating radiators. GEI will also establish an electronic facility for the production of telephones, exchanges, PCs and components related to such products. Key founders of the GEI who have covered JD 3.19 million of the capital are: Hassan Hamdi Mango (JD 400,000), Omar Ibrahim Mango (JD 300,000), Adnan Ibrahim Mango (JD 200,000), Antseh Adnan Mango (JD 200,000), the Housing Bank (JD 200,000), Al Hamdi Mango (JD 200,000), Ibrahim Mo'az, Halimeh, Nadia, Khalil and Mariana Omar Mango (JD 100,000) each and Jordan Gulf Bank (JD 100,000). Closing date for subscription is May 4, 1995 (Al Rai).

Financial Jordan Times				
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank				
Markets				
U.S. Dollar to International Markets				
Currency	New York Close	New York Close	New York Close	New York Close
	12/4/95	15/4/95	12/4/95	15/4/95
Sterling Pound	1.9925	1.9925	1.9925	1.9925
Deutsche Mark	1.4010	1.4010	1.4010	1.4010
Swiss Franc	1.1326	1.1326	1.1326	1.1326
French Franc	4.8765	4.8765	4.8765	4.8765
Japanese Yen	85.74	85.74	85.74	85.74
European Currency Unit	1.3153	1.3153	1.3153	1.3153

Precious Metals				
Date: 15/4/1995				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz
Gold	361.50	7.60	Silver	5.55
				0.100

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin				
Date: 15/4/1995				
Currency	Old	Offer	Currency	Old
U.S. Dollar	0.6860	0.6860	U.S. Dollar	0.6860
Sterling Pound	1.0995	1.1050	Sterling Pound	1.0995
Deutsche Mark	0.4927	0.4952	Deutsche Mark	0.4927
Swiss Franc	0.5955	0.5985	Swiss Franc	0.5955
French Franc	0.1412	0.1412	French Franc	0.1412
Japanese Yen	0.8257	0.8278	Japanese Yen	0.8257
Dutch Guilder	0.4400	0.4422	Dutch Guilder	0.4400
Swedish Krona	0.0601	0.0603	Swedish Krona	0.0601
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000	Italian Lira	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000	Belgian Franc	0.0000

Other Currencies				
Date: 15/4/1995				
Currency	Old	Offer	Currency	Old
Bahraini Dinar	1.8280	1.8280	Bahraini Dinar	1.8280
Lebanese Lira	0.021200	0.021300	Lebanese Lira	0.021200
Saudi Riyal	0.1626	0.1636	Saudi Riyal	0.1626
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3600	Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150
Omani Riyal	0.1871	0.1882	Omani Riyal	0.1871
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2050	Egyptian Pound	0.1900
Omani Riyal	1.7750	1.7900	Omani Riyal	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1460	0.1480	UAE Dirham	0.1460
Greek Drachma	0.2950	0.3225	Greek Drachma	0.2950
Cypriot Pound	1.4630	1.5560	Cypriot Pound	1.4630

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## Agassi, Courier advance to Japan Open final

TOKYO (Agencies) — Andre Agassi pounded out a 7-5, 6-2 victory over Wayne Ferreira in the Japan Open on Saturday, advancing to the finals of his first tournament since gaining the world No. 1 ranking.

Agassi said, however, that because of a lower back strain that has been bothering him since Davis Cup preparation last month, he would pull out of next week's tournament in Hong Kong, rest and get treatment for a couple of weeks.

In Sunday's final, Agassi will face No. 4 seed Jim Courier, who won 6-4, 7-5 against fellow American Michael Chang, the second seed. Courier broke Chang's serve in the third game of the first set and the 11th game of the second, when he had help from a double fault by Chang at 30-30.

Courier said he didn't expect to gain any points Sunday from Agassi's back problems.

"For Andre to be in the final of this tournament indicates to me that his back is really not too bad," he said.

Neither Agassi nor strong-serving No. 3 seed Ferreira, from South Africa, had a break point until the 11th game, when Agassi created one with a forehand serve return winner. Ferreira then netted a backhand volley and Agassi served out the set.

Agassi broke again in the second set's first game after Ferreira had taken a 40-15 lead on three aces. At 40-30, Ferreira appeared to slip chasing along the baseline for an Agassi shot and sent a backhand long. He shook his foot and then served two double faults, giving Agassi the game.

Agassi broke again in the fifth game, and won in slightly more than an hour before about 7,000 spectators. "I feel like I'm hitting the ball well," Agassi said, but added that because of his back, his doctor, coach and manager "have been concerned with me just finishing this week."

"I'll come out here and finish tomorrow, but I can't play next week at all," he said.

Of his back, Agassi said: "The more fatigued it gets, the more you play on it, the worse it gets, and it can turn into something that could be chronic. I've got to take care of it."

He said he hoped to be back in action for a tournament in Atlanta from May 1-7.

Of his 11-game service break against Ferreira, he said: "I always felt like I was on the verge of breaking him and I was holding pretty easy. ... It's tougher to hold against me the longer that you go because I start getting a better read for where you're serving well that day and my confidence picks up the longer the match goes on."

Ferreira, who now has lost five straight matches to Agassi, said his opponent was serving better than it their past battles. Agassi put in 72 per cent of his first serves to 56 per cent for Ferreira.

In the second set's first game, "I slipped and actually hurt my foot. That affected me at least that game. But after I sat down at the



Michael Chang

changeover and got up, gradually it got better."

Courier, who has fallen from No. 1 in the world rankings in late 1993 to 15th now, was pleased with his victory over No. 6 Chang.

"It was a big win for me, getting over the hump beating a top player in a big match. I haven't done it in a while so it feels very good," he said.

Chang was attacking the net often against Courier, and said, "I think I was winning a good percentage at the net. There were a number of points I should have won. I think it's just becoming more and more a part of my game."

Chang, known as a tenacious baseline retriever, said he wanted to take the game to his opponents more so he didn't depend so much on how well they were playing.

### TENNIS ROUNDUP

Women's No. 2 seed Amy Frazier of the United States beat qualifier Tang Min of Hong Kong 6-3, 6-3 and advanced to Sunday's final against No. 1 seed Kimiko Date of Japan, who is seeking her fourth straight Japan Open title.

Date beat Frazier 7-5, 6-0 in last year's final. Date beat compatriot Nana Miyagi in two quick sets Friday to reach the final.

Tang, a native of China, had reached the semifinals by coming from behind to beat two Japanese seeds.

"She is very hard to play. It's hard to read where her shots are going," said Frazier. "I've played Kimiko before so I'll know what to expect."

In an all-Japanese women's doubles final, 19-year-olds Miho Saeki and Yuka Yoshida upset No. 2 seeds Kyoko Nagatsuka and Ai Sugiyama 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) after

falling behind 5-2 in the final set.

**Hack to play Graf in semis**  
In Houston, defending champion Sabine Hack of Germany faltered briefly in the second set before changing past erratic Nino Loursabishvili of Georgia 6-1, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Houston women's tennis championships on Friday night.

Hack, seeded fifth, will meet No. 1 ranked Steffi Graf of Germany in the semifinals.

"If I have a real great day and she (Graf) has a bad day, anything is possible," Hack said. "She serves really well and moves incredibly well. My best chance against her is on clay."

Hack had little trouble in getting past 18-year-old Loursabishvili, who

beaten her easier but the ball was swirling in the wind," Hack said. "I wasn't getting the ball deep, so she could attack the next ball."

Loursabishvili upset third-seeded Iva Majoli but Hack wouldn't allow another comeback.

"I think I am more consistent and move better," Hack said. "She hit a lot of good shots but she misses some too. She needs to be more consistent."

Asa Carlsson of Sweden will meet Meike Babel of Germany in the other semifinals match. Carlsson defeated Joannette Kruger of South Africa 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) and Babel beat seventh-seeded Sandra Cecchini 6-4, 6-3.

**Kafelnikov faces Muster**

In Barcelona, Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, ranked No. 5 in the world, defeated Thierry Champion of France in two straight sets Friday to earn a place in the semifinals of the \$900,000 Conde de Godo ATP tennis tournament.

Kafelnikov won the match 6-4, 6-3. He is the tournament's highest remaining seed after No. 1 seed, American Pete Sampras and No. 2, Sergi Bruguera of Spain, were both eliminated in their opening rounds.

In the semifinals, the Russian will face No. 9 seed, Austrian Thomas Muster who despite going down in the first set 6-3 against Spaniard Carlos Costa, recovered to win the match in the following two sets, 3-6, 7-5.

No. 5 seed Goran Iv

## Jordan lose to Lebanon in Davis Cup

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Davis Cup team suffered another defeat Friday when they lost 2-1 to Lebanon in their Asia/Oceania Zone Group 3 playoff currently underway in Dubai.

The Jordanian team has now lost its chance of moving to Group 2 next year as only the top team in the five-nation group will be promoted to the senior division of the zonals.

Jordan had lost its opening first two ties against Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh 3-0. They will next play the UAE and Pacific Oceania.

Faris Azzouni secured the only win for Jordan when he beat Lebanon's Tawfiq Zahlan 6-3, 7-6. Imad Abu Hamda had a tough match and put up a big fight before losing to Ibrahim Khalil 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 6-4.

Lebanon's Karim Khoury and Hussein Badreddine then defeated Abu Hamda and Khaled Hussein in the doubles 6-2, 7-6 (7-2).

Jordan's national team coach Youssef Al Oreibi, who has surprisingly not accompanied the team, told the Jordan

Times that he was very surprised by the team's results as players and officials had expected the team to do better.

"I suppose the extremely hot and humid weather has greatly affected the players' performance. They have been playing long matches on a daily basis. In addition I heard that Imad (Abu Hamda) had a bad cold which has undoubtedly affected his form," Oreibi commented.

The round robin competition is being played on a daily two singles and one doubles match format over five days with only the top team in the group being promoted to Group 2 whose winner is promoted to Group 1 before joining the prestigious World Group which includes teams such as the United States, Germany, and others.

The Asia/Oceania Zone Group 3 tournament in Dubai is one of the largest in Davis Cup competition as 13 teams will be playing 108 matches at one single venue. Singapore still lead Group A which includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria, Oman, Kazakhstan and Brunei.

In group A matches, Bahrain defeated Kuwait 2-1, Singapore beat Brunei 3-0 and Syria defeated Kazakhstan 3-0.

Jordan's Group B includes the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Pacific Oceania, and Lebanon.

Bangladesh now lead Group B after defeating Pacific Oceania 2-1, while Saudi Arabia beat the UAE 2-1.

Jordan's only hope of returning to Group 2 from which they were relegated after the 1993 competition was in topping the five-team group.

Jordan's team has had to rely on a young, relatively inexperienced line-up after the country's champion Hani Al Ali quit the game in 1993. All-time rival Abu Hamda was crowned Jordan's champion in 1993 but last year missed competition as he was preoccupied with studies in his final year at the faculty of medicine at the University of Jordan.

Abu Hamda is possibly playing his last Davis Cup as he will leave for the U.S. soon to pursue his medical career.

Azzouni, has played Davis Cup before and is one of the country's best players. However, Hussein who attends university in the U.S. just recently joined the team, and Nafaa, playing their first Davis Cup and lack competitive match experience.

### GOREN BRIDGE

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#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 9 ♣ 853 ♠ A108764 ♠ AQ6 Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ AKJ7 ♣ AQ75 ♠ AKJ98 The bidding has proceeded: East South West North 1 ♣ Dbl Pass 1 ♠ Pass ? What do you bid now?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ K1054 ♠ A10 ♣ Q1073 ♠ K105 Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ J75 ♣ Q8643 ♣ Q2 ♠ AQ2 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ? What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ AQ7 ♣ KJ85 ♣ Q7532 ♠ 10 Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ Void ♣ AQJ7832 ♠ A1065 ♠ Q9 What is your opening bid after partner and right-hand opponent pass?

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<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>		<b>PLAZA</b>		<b>CONCORD</b>		<b>AMMOUN THEATRE</b>		<b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b>	<b>AHLAN THEATRE</b>
Tom Hanks in <b>Forrest Gump</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15		Tom Hanks in <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		<b>CONCORD '1'</b> Comedian star: Adel Imam — <b>Bakhit &amp; Andadileh</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 <b>CONCORD '2'</b> Jean-Claude Van Damm <b>STREET FIGHTER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00		Musa Hijazin "Sum'a" in the political satire <b>Hi Citizen</b> written and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqia daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Haffa Al Agha in the children's play ★ Sa'di's Return ★		COMING SOON The Comedy Show <b>CABARET</b>	Presents: The political satire: <b>AL SALAM YA SALAM</b> at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sundays



## Amman prepares to host 8th regional bridge championship

### Omar Sharif, world bridge officials to attend

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The capital is set to become the bridge centre of the region when the 8th Bridge Federation of Africa, Asia and the Middle East (BFAAME) championship opens here on April 22.

Over 200 bridge players and officials representing 15 countries will come together for the championship, where the top two teams will qualify to play in the World Bridge Championship scheduled to be held in Beijing in September.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, chief organiser and co-chairman of the organising committee, Ghassan Ghanem, said the preparations for the event were on course and that organisers were excited about holding such a regional championship in the Kingdom for the first time.

"We are very encouraged. I am sure this tournament will be a great success for the Jordan Bridge Association (JBA) and its sub-committees, whose members are working very hard to make it a beautiful event," Mr. Ghanem added.

The competition, held under the patronage of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, will be attended by top bridge officials and players from around the world, including celebrity Omar Sharif, who will be commenting and might take part in some exhibition matches.

Also attending will be the President of the World Bridge Federation Jose Damiani and Vice-President Mazhar Jafri.

In addition to the President of the BFAAME P.C. Goenka and Arab Bridge Federation Chairman Sadeq Radwan.

The higher committee of the championship is headed by JBA honorary president, Mrs. Nawzat Shaker, and includes Senator Zeid Rifai, as vice president, Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat and Minister of Tourism Abdulah Al Khatib.

The competition will be held at the Forte Grand Hotel and will end on May 3.

The first two days are reserved for the open pairs competition. The qualification rounds for the open and ladies teams will take a week to complete with the final three days reserved for the semifinals and final.

Participants in the open teams include players from Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Reunion, Mauritius, Russia, Kenya and Jordan.

Eight teams will contest the ladies' trophy. They are: Egypt, South Africa, Reunion, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Jordan.

Bridge, the internationally popular card game was first officially introduced in Jordan in 1979 and has been steadily drawing a large number of players and fans in the Kingdom — a fact that led the World Bridge Federation (WBF) and the BFAAME council to accept Jordan's bid to host the championship following WBF Vice-President Mazhar Jafri's visit to Jordan in January 1994.

During the visit, Mr. Jafri examined facilities and arrangements and signed an agreement with the Jordan Bridge Association to host the championship.

## Klinsmann gives Tottenham a draw

LONDON (AP) — Juergen Klinsmann nailed a spectacular 25-metre (yard) free kick with three minutes to play Friday to give Tottenham to a 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace in the English Premier League.

The German striker hit a perfectly-placed drive: curling the ball over and to the right of the Palace defensive wall and back toward the net to deflect off the underside of the crossbar and in. It was his 27th goal of the season.

Klinsmann, subject of transfer rumours over the past week, was reluctant to talk about his future with Tottenham, despite a contract that extends through next season. German team Bayern Munich is considered a leading contender for the services of the striker, who is reported to want out if Tottenham doesn't qualify for next season's UEFA Cup.

Klinsmann's goal matched Chris Armstrong's 20-metre (yard) strike four minutes before halftime to give Palace the lead.

The result satisfied neither team. Palace, which lost to Manchester United in a Football Association Cup semifinal replay on Wednesday, remained in the Premier League relegation zone, and seventh-place Tottenham failed to make up substantial ground in its UEFA Cup bid.

Elsewhere, two other teams fighting relegation scored stunning upsets. Nigerian international Daniel Amokachi scored in the 22nd and 55th minutes to lift F.A. Cup finalist Everton out of the relegation zone with a 2-0 home victory over fourth-place Newcastle. Amokachi also netted twice in Everton's 4-1 F.A. Cup semifinal win over Tottenham last Sunday.

## FIBA considers ways to enliven championship

ZARAGOZA (AP) — What to do about dull, low-scoring games in the European final four?

Two abysmal semifinal games and a final that wasn't exactly a classic made this year's championship tournament for European clubs something of a let-down. Shooting percentages were low and there was too much bumping-and-grinding in the paint.

"We had a full house, all the eyes of Europe were on us," Boris Stankovic, who has run world basketball's governing body FIBA for almost two decades, said after the semifinals. "They didn't see very much. We need a show, a game that's relatively high-scoring."

In Tuesday's semis, won 62-49 by Real Madrid over Limoges and 58-52 by Olympiakos over Panathinaikos, overall shooting percentages hovered around an embarrassing 30 per cent. Tight defenses and nerves seemed to overwhelm even good shooters.

"People come to see a game and not a wrestling match," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "This happens in the NBA sometimes."

often in important games where the play is slower and the shooting percentages are lower."

Thursday's championship game, a 73-61 victory for Real Madrid over Olympiakos, was a better show. The game was quick-paced and generally well-played, but shooting was at best average — in the 40-percent range — and the champion won with fewer than 75 points for the sixth straight year.

Last year, the NBA responded to the low-scoring, heavy-contact championship series between the Houston Rockets and New York Knicks by changing the rules and opening up the game.

Faced with the same problem, Stankovic is thinking about some changes of his own, such as doing away with the single-elimination format used in the American college version of the final four.

"I think we need a playoff system so it doesn't all come down to one game," Stankovic said. "I'm quite sure the play would improve. It's very seldom we have a good game in the final four — nobody wants to take risks."

Stankovic said a playoff system might be installed in the "next two or three years" if free dates could be found in a tight calendar.

He also admitted his opinion was not unanimous within FIBA.

Such a revamp would also involve changing from the present neutral-court concept to a home-and-home series. "We're open to changes, but only when we feel the time is right and it's good for the sport," FIBA spokesman Florian Wanninger said.

Stankovic said there was also talk of reducing the shot clock from 30 seconds to 24. Plus, as basketball's popularity continues to grow in Europe, the quality of play is bound to improve on its own.

"Maybe this generation of players is not good enough," Stankovic joked. "We don't want to create a real revolution, but rather an evolution."

Stankovic also offered a rare public criticism of the officiating.

"The officiating was objective in those two games (the semifinals), but I disagree with the interpretation," he said. "We have rules against this physical play that should be enforced."

## Fujimoto extends Kenya's rally lead

NAIROBI (R) — Yoshio Fujimoto survived an adventurous day to extend his lead and spearhead a Japanese assault in the second leg of Kenya's Safari Rally on Friday.

Fujimoto, driving a Toyota, ended the second day 16 minutes 47 seconds ahead of fellow-countryman Kenjiro Shinozuka in a Mitsubishi.

A third Japanese, Hideaki Miyoshi, in a Subaru was in fourth place behind defending champion Ian Duncan of

Kenya in another Toyota.

Fujimoto, who has never previously led a top rally, said his rear tyres overheated, he had been slowed down by cows along the route, then a bus had brushed against his Toyota.

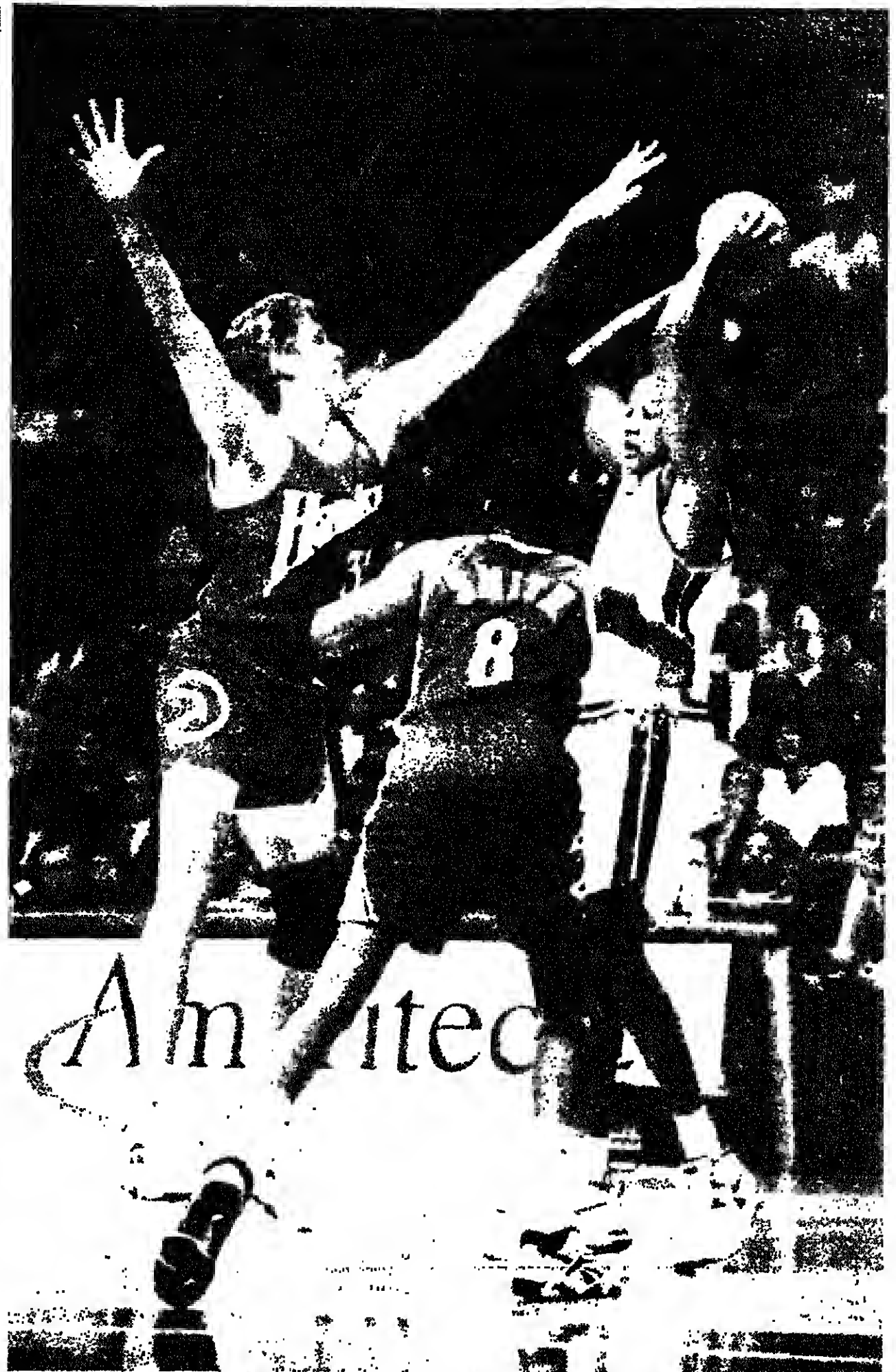
But he said the most bizarre event of the day was when his windscreen slipped because two mounting rubbers wore away and caused a crack in the centre of the screen.

"Being first on the road

has its disadvantages. I was slowed down by several herds of cows along the road — which is why Shinozuka has made up some time on me," Fujimoto said but added he was confident of holding off his Mitsubishi rival.

Shinozuka said he had lost two minutes with suspension problems and added: "I am trying to get the lead so I can be out of dust."

Briton Richard Burns, in a Subaru, was time-barred mid-way through the leg.



Atlanta Hawks' Jon Koncak (left) and teammate Steve Smith #8 contain Detroit Pistons' Terry Mills, with the ball, during their NBA match (AFP photo)

## Spurs back on top as Pacers, Suns lose

NEW YORK (AP) — Dennis Rodman returned and rebounded.

The U.S. national Basketball Association's leading rebounder at 17.4 per game played Friday night for the first time since separating his right shoulder in a motorcycle accident on March 19. He had 15 rebounds in 22 minutes, and the San Antonio Spurs came away with a 98-88 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

David Robinson, who had 32 points and 16 rebounds, couldn't praise Rodman enough after the Spurs ended a two-game losing streak that followed a 15-game winning streak.

"It was a good, gutsy effort for him to come out and do the job that he did," Robinson said. "Right at the end there, that was the Spurs I know."

Those Spurs are now the winningest team in franchise history with a 57-20 record, and they have a two-game lead with five to play in the race to have the homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs.

"All I can say is that I'm a big fan of their ball club. They've got a chance to go a long way," Kings coach Gary St. Jean said.

Rodman missed 14 games, and his return seemed as if it might be short-lived when he left the court seconds before halftime in obvious pain from muscle spasms in his shoulder. He returned to the court and was his usual self in the second half.

"Pain drives me. It makes me get into my game that much more," Rodman said. "I was going to do what it took to play. I just had to go out and do what I could. It was no big deal."

Sacramento, still in the running for the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot, rallied from a 60-49 deficit in the third quarter to take an 80-79 lead with 8:04 left. But San Antonio went ahead on a field goal by Rodman two minutes later and never trailed again. The Spurs held the Kings score-

less for 5½ minutes and took a 93-82 lead.

"We wanted to make a statement against a team that we might meet in the playoffs," said Avery Johnson, who had 16 points for the Spurs. "Dennis added that punch to our team. He's a prime time guy."

Mitch Richmond led Sacramento with 22 points. Cavaliers 83, Hawks 70: Tyrone Hill had 16 points and 18 rebounds as Cleveland won for just the second time in eight games and remained two games in front of the Hawks in the race for the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference.

Andrew Lang scored 15 points for the visiting Hawks, while John Williams scored 16 and Tony Campbell 15 for the Cavs.

Knicks 88, Pacers 84: Derek Harper's 3-pointer with 7.5 seconds to play and the shot clock winding down broke the game's final tie as the visiting Knicks moved 3½ games in front of Indiana in the race for the second-best record in the Eastern Conference.

With the scored tied 84-84, Harper was wide open in the corner when he took a pass from John Starks and buried the shot.

With Charlotte's win over Detroit, Indiana's lead in the Central Division has shrunk to one-half game.

Patrick Ewing led New York, which has won five straight, with 30 points.

Hornets 94, Pistons 86: Alonzo Mourning had 23 points and 13 rebounds as Charlotte eliminated Detroit from playoff contention.

Greg Sutton had 12 of his 14 points in the second half, and his 3-pointer with 3:14 left gave the visiting Hornets an 86-81 lead.

Allan Houston scored 21 points and Grant Hill had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Pistons, who will miss the playoffs for the third straight season after qualifying for nine consecutive years.

Timberwolves 104, Bucks 100, OT: Milwaukee broke

three losing streaks: four straight losses, five losses in a row at home and 10 straight overtime defeats. The last time the Timberwolves won an overtime game was March 1992.

Isaiah Rider and Tom Gugliotta each had five points in the extra period.

The Timberwolves led by eight points with 1:48 left in regulation. Milwaukee,

which had a three-game winning streak snapped and fell two games behind Boston for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, tied it on Eric Murdock's layup with 10 seconds left.

Christian Laettner led Minnesota with 25 points and 11 rebounds, while Glenn Robinson topped the Bucks with 28 points.

RESULTS			
Cleveland	83	Atlanta	70
New York	88	Indiana	84
Charlotte	94	Detroit	86
Minnesota	104	Milwaukee	100, OT
San Antonio	98	Sacramento	88
Denver	102	Phoenix	87

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
X-Orlando	55	22	.714	—
X-New York	52	25	.675	3
Boston	33	44	.429	22
Miami	30	47	.390	25
New Jersey	28	49	.364	27
Philadelphia	22	55	.286	33
Washington	18	59	.234	37
Central Division				
X-Indiana	49	29	.628	—
X-Charlotte	48	29	.623	½
X-Chicago	43	34	.558	8½
X-Cleveland	41	37	.526	8
X-Atlanta	39	39	.500	10
Milwaukee	31	46	.403	17½
Detroit	27	50	.351	21½
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
X-San Antonio	57	20	.740	—
X-Utah	55	22	.714	2
X-Houston	45	32	.584	12
Denver	38	39	.494	19
Dallas	34	42	.447	22½
Minnesota	21	56	.273	36
Pacific Division				
X-Seattle	54	22	.711	—
X-Phoenix	55	23	.705	—
X-L.A. Lakers	47	30	.610	7½
Portland	40	36	.526	14
Sacramento	37	40	.481	17½
Golden State	25	52	.325	29½
L.A. Clippers	16	61	.208	38½

★ Clinched playoff berth

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Bids are to be submitted to the Secretary of the Tendering Committee at the above address not later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday 17/7/1995 accompanied with a bid bond equal to 2% of the total values of the bid.

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## Sifi says violence eased, polls are on

**TUNIS (Agencies)** — Algeria's Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi said on Saturday violence in the strife-ridden country had eased and the government would press on with plans to hold presidential elections this year.

"Regarding the security domain, there is a great improvement," Mr. Sifi told Algerian state-run radio's interviewer Fethi Saidi.

"There is improvement (in the security situation) because firstly of security forces efforts... election preparations are proceeding excellently," he said.

The army-backed government of President Liamine Zeroul is planning to hold presidential elections this year, which it says will decide the political future of the country, racked by civil strife since 1992.

On Saturday, Mr. Zeroul held talks with leaders of the small political movement, the Development and Solidarity National Party (PNSD), the last among 11 political groups he has consulted about the elections.

Many groups at first refused even to discuss elections, saying there was too much instability and the government should open dialogue with militants fighting to overthrow it. Up to 30,000 people have died in the conflict.

Mr. Zeroul has succeeded in meeting more leaders since reports two weeks ago of a crushing military defeat which killed up to 1,000 militants. But it is still not clear how wide support for holding elections are among Algeria's political groups.

Mr. Sifi said the talks were to build consensus in favour of the polls, not to broker any power-sharing arrangements.

"The goal of the dialogue is the (presidential) elections, but not to divide up power. This is not our right. The people will decide because only they have the sovereignty," Mr. Sifi said.

"As a citizen, I'm optimistic. Every Algerian citizen believes, as much as he believes in God, that Algeria will overcome the crisis," said Mr. Sifi.

Militant leader Mezrak Madani has also issued a string of conciliatory statements in recent weeks.

On Friday, Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammed Salah Dembri hinted that his government might be ready to work with part of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

"I believe it is necessary to include all the country's political tendencies in a project to defend pluralism and multiparty democracy," he said in an interview with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper.

"I have read that among grassroots (FIS) members there is a profound revulsion against violence and terrorism and these grassroots want to be included in present efforts to reach an agreement on the perspectives for Algerian society," Mr. Dembri said.

Dembri, in Bonn for political discussions earlier this week, said that a dialogue was in progress in Algeria that "embraces all possible ideas in all political forces," adding that he believed it was necessary "to encourage the dynamic of dialogue in Algeria."

He denied that the security situation had deteriorated — "on the contrary it has improved."

There were still "tensions" but he said he was optimistic about the early reestablishment of "almost normal conditions of security."

He reiterated that he had not raised the cases of individual Algerian citizens living in Germany in the course of his talks with German leaders, among them Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Interior Minister Manfred Kanther.

But he emphasised that international law forbids citizens of a state who have sought asylum abroad to carry out actions against their country of origin.

Algeria has asked Bonn to extradite Algerians condemned to prison or death. The family of Abassi Madani, founder of the FIS, and its overseas spokesman, Rabah Kebir, live in Germany.

Meanwhile the leader of an armed Islamic gang and four of his men were killed in Algeria's southern Medea region, the daily Al Watan reported Saturday, although it did not say when and how the killings happened.

Gang leader Hantabi was a "particularly dangerous criminal who terrorised the Medea region with his barbarity," it said, blaming him for the murder two years ago of an army captain who was kidnapped and had his throat cut before being beheaded. His head was found on a public bench.

However, the paper did not say whether the militants belonged to the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) or its rival Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), two extremist groups opposed to the country's secular regime.

The Arab-language daily Al Khabar said three Islamic fundamentalists were killed Thursday in a clash with security forces at Bir Al Ater near the Tunisian border.

The three, who had been hiding in a house overnight, were surrounded and killed by a grenade thrown into the building in a firefight lasting more than an hour, the paper added, saying two of the security forces were injured.

## Accident in Egypt

**EGYPTIANS SURVEY** the damage of a train-bus collision in which 44 people died and 33 were injured in the Nile Delta region north of Cairo (See page 2).

The crash happened when a bus crossed a railway line ignoring a stop sign. The bus was cut in two and completely destroyed (AFP photo)



## Arad was caught by Dirani — report

**NICOSIA (Agencies)** — An Israeli fighter pilot who went missing over Lebanon in 1986 fell into the hands of a Lebanese fundamentalist, Mustafa Dirani, who held him in Bekaa Valley, a hard-line Palestinian leader said.

Ahmad Jibril, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), said however, he had "no information on the fate of the pilot," Ron Arad.

Arad was shot dead on Oct. 16, 1986 over southern Lebanon, near Sidon.

Sheikh Dirani, a former intelligence chief with the Shiite Muslim Amal militia who is now close to the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, was kidnapped by Israeli agents in May 1994 and taken to the Jewish state for questioning about Arad.

"I know Dirani put Arad under guard in a place" in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley, Colonel Jibril told the London-based Arabic weekly Al Wasat in an interview published Monday.

Asked whether Mr. Arad was still alive, Col. Jibril said there were two versions of what happened when Israeli forces attacked the Maydoun region in the Bekaa.

"Some of Ron Arad's guards came from this region and it is said they abandoned him to go and see what had happened. When they returned, Arad had escaped," Col. Jibril said.

## Defiant Qadhafi marks U.S. air raid on Libya

**TRIPOLI (R)** — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Saturday marked the ninth anniversary of a U.S. raid on Libya with a call to the U.N. to probe all violent incidents linked to Tripoli in the past decade, including the Lockerbie bombing.

Colonel Qadhafi also renewed a pledge that hundreds of thousands of Libyans were ready to defend their country against the "imperialists."

"We proclaim our determination to resist (the Western countries) until the day of resurrection and will not accept that the United States be God on earth," he said.

"More than one million Libyans are ready to fight all along the Libyan coasts, and to change the desert, waters, and sands into a hell... our fighting is continuing and shame and defeat to the imperialists and the traitors."

Col. Qadhafi was making a midnight speech at Aziza army barracks in Tripoli where his home was bombed by American and British planes exactly nine years ago. Wearing traditional Libyan bedouin clothes, Col. Qadhafi was applauded by hundreds of his followers.

On April 15, 1986, U.S. warplanes flying from British bases and U.S. aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean bombed targets in Tripoli and Benghazi. Libya said more than 40 people were killed, nearly all civilians.

Washington said the raid was in response to an explosion at a Berlin discotheque in which two Americans were killed. The U.S. blamed Libya but Tripoli denied the charge.

Washington then blamed Libya for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people. It said the attack was carried out to avenge the Libya raid.

Tripoli also denied any links to the blast and refused to hand over two Libyans accused by the U.S. and Britain of the attack.

Libya's refusal to hand over those accused resulted in U.N. sanctions against it, which were approved on April 15, 1992.

"The United States had said that... the Libyans have taken revenge (for the raid) by downing the Pan Am over Lockerbie."

Col. Qadhafi said. "They also said that the bombing (raid) was a retaliation against the Berlin bombing, which itself was a revenge against the Sirte U.S. aggression against Libya."

He was referring to a confrontation between Libyan planes and U.S. carrier-based aircraft off Libya in 1985.

"These are rounds of related to each other... therefore how can we deal with only one round and discuss

only the Lockerbie case," Col. Qadhafi said.

"If Libya has downed the Pan Am over Lockerbie, why did it do it, the Security Council must probe into this... how does it accept discussing Lockerbie 'A' and not Lockerbie 'B'?" he asked. "We do not reject to submit all these cases to the security council. Furthermore, we welcome that."

The Libyan leader also denounced what he called the United States efforts to spy on him.

"Libya was a concern for the U.S. officials more than the former Soviet Union. They devoted a huge amount of material and human means to gather information on Qadhafi, to watch him, to photograph him, to follow up my moves even in the desert, to spy on the (Libyan) diplomatic transmissions and his (Qadhafi's) telephone conversations..." he said.

Thousands of predominantly Christian residents huddled in underground basements and bomb shelters as more than 30 Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets rained down on Marjayoun, the sources said.

The two churches in the town cancelled midnight Easter mass.

Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the dawn assault, saying it targeted three SLA positions in Tumat Niha, Zummara and Almadieh.

An Israeli soldier was wounded in similar hostilities in the same area Friday.

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An Israeli soldier was wounded in similar hostilities in the same area Friday.

## Artillery battles set S. Lebanon hospital ablaze

**MARJAYOUN (AP)** — Guerrillas Saturday fought artillery duels with Israeli troops in South Lebanon, setting a hospital afire and forcing thousands to spend Easter eve in underground shelters, security sources said.

A nurse, three pro-Israeli militiamen and a guerrilla were wounded in hostilities touched off by a hit-and-run guerrilla attack on an outpost of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia at daybreak, the sources said.

The guerrillas raked the SLA outpost in the eastern sector of an Israeli-occupied

border enclave with mortar fire and rocket-propelled grenades, the sources said.

The three wounded militiamen were evacuated to a hospital in Marjayoun, the main town in the enclave which Israel calls a "security zone," the sources added.

Israeli and SLA positions struck back with prolonged barrages of howitzer and tank cannon fire on suspected Hizbollah bases at four villages in the western sector of the Bekaa Valley.

Ten houses were damaged in the village of Ain Al Tineh, where the guerrilla

was wounded, said the sources.

Hizbollah positions unleashed volleys of Katyusha rockets on Marjayoun and its environs at mid-afternoon behind sustained mortar fire, the sources said.

Eight projectiles crashed in and around Marjayoun's 170-bed hospital, setting the enclave's main medical centre ablaze. The nurse suffered a shrapnel wound as patients were frantically evacuated to the hospital's basement, the sources said, adding that firemen were fighting the blaze.

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## Dubai denies transit to Israelis

**DUBAI (Agencies)** — Dubai has refused to let a group of Israelis through its international airport as transit passengers, airport security sources said Saturday.

The group of 20 arrived Thursday from the Omani capital Muscat aboard a Kuwait Airways flight apparently on their way back to Israel after attending a water pollution conference in Oman.

The plane was forced to fly the Israelis back to Muscat, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Kuwait Airways officials said they were investigating why airlines personnel allowed the Israelis on the flight without first checking whether they would get transit clearance in Dubai.

From Dubai the Israelis would have had to fly to another airport outside the region since none of the Gulf states have direct air links with Israel.

The Al Khaleej daily of the neighbouring Sharjah emirate reported that the action was in line with UAE policy to shun ties with Israel until it reaches peace agreements with Syria and Lebanon.

The UAE's five Gulf allies officially maintain the same policy.

However, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain have allowed visits from some Israeli leaders and private sector representatives for regional conferences and fostering of business contacts.

In Kuwait, an official said the Kuwaiti government was investigating the report.

"Concerned officials are investigating the case of the Kuwait Airways flight that carried passengers with Israeli documents," the official, who refused to be named, told Reuters.

He would not elaborate.

## Sudan denies conscripts being sent to fight rebels

**KHARTOUM (Agencies)** — A Sudanese official has denied a government roundup of young men was aimed at gathering troops to fight against rebels in southern Sudan and said those recruited were used to develop the country.

The comment by Abul Al Haboob, deputy coordinator for the national service, was published Saturday in the government daily Al Sudan Al Hadith following complaints that soldiers were stopping buses to seize young men of draft age.

Mr. Haboob warned government institutions not to issue forged documents to help youths avoid national service, noting his department had discovered several such cases.

In the past four days, the government has stepped up the year-old campaign against draft dodgers, adding checkpoints around Khartoum's major areas. Men of draft-age are asked to prove they are exempt from the required two-year military service or are taken to training camps.

The lack of information on what happens to those taken away has angered even supporters of General Omar Hassan Al Bashir's government, with people claiming the recruits were being sent to fight the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

But Mr. Haboob maintained the military and popular defence forces were already capable of handling the southern rebels and added: "The national service recruits will be used for development purposes."

He described allegations of mistreatment of the young men at the hands of soldiers as lies and said the campaign would continue.

Neither the army nor the rebels have gained an upper hand in the 12-year-old civil war. An estimated 1.3 million

## Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline ready to resume pumping

**ANKARA (AFP)** — A double pipeline linking the Kirkuk oilfields in northern Iraq with the Turkish Mediterranean terminal of Yumurtalik is ready to resume operations if Baghdad accepts a U.N. resolution authorising limited sales of crude, oil industry officials said here Saturday.

The U.N. resolution adopted by the 15-member Security Council Friday said Iraq could sell up to \$1 billion worth of oil each quarter but would have to comply with U.N. restrictions on the use of the funds.

Resolution 986 said most of the Iraqi oil could be exported through the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline and Turkey would receive transit payment.

"One of the pipelines, measuring 102 centimetres in diameter, is ready for the pumping of oil. The section on Turkish territory is operational and the Iraqis say their section is, too," said one oil industry official.

"If Iraq accepts (the resolution), pumping could start within 20 days."

The official, who asked not to be named, told AFP the second pipeline, measuring 117 centimetres in diameter, had been sabotaged several times by Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels, and would be repaired soon.

The Turkish government shut down the double pipeline in line with the U.N. embargo imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

One of the pipelines is 986 kilometres long, the other 890 kilometres long.

## Gabon president fights rumours he has AIDS virus

**PARIS (AP)** — A French doctor for Gabon's president Friday denied the African leader has the AIDS virus and an official Gabon newspaper attacked a link between the president and girls selling him clothes.

The doctor, who asked not to be named, told AFP the second pipeline, measuring 117 centimetres in diameter, had been sabotaged several times by Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels, and would be repaired soon.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pakistan sends Iraq 4,000 tonnes of rice

**BAGHDAD (AFP)** — A Pakistani cargo ship loaded with 4,000 tonnes of rice for Iraq is expected to arrive in the Iraqi Gulf port of Umm Qasr next week, the Pakistani embassy said here Saturday. Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto decided to send the aid, due to arrive Tuesday at the port 600 kilometres south of Baghdad, to ease suffering caused by the U.N. trade and oil embargo on Iraq, an embassy statement said. "Pakistan is deeply worried by the suffering of the Iraqi people due to the embargo" imposed after Baghdad's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the statement said.

### Qadhafi meets former British minister

**TRIPOLI (AFP)** — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi held talks here Friday with former Scottish Office Minister Allan Stewart as U.N. sanctions aimed at forcing the handover of suspects wanted for the Lockerbie airliner bombing entered their third year. The official Libyan news agency JANA did not give any details on the talks. A U.N. ban on international air travel was slapped on Tripoli on April 15, 1992 to force Libya to hand over to either Britain or the United States the two suspects accused of bombing a U.S. plane which blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people. The air embargo, which also bans the delivery of plane parts, was coupled with military sanctions and broadened in late 1993 to include a ban on some equipment for the oil industry that provides 90 per cent of Libya's income. Previous talks between Libyan and Scottish officials on the Lockerbie issue have failed to produce a breakthrough.

### Islamic party proposes sex leave for prisoners

**ANKARA (AP)** — The Islamic fundamentalist Welfare Party prepared a draft bill allowing married prisoners biweekly sex leave, a report said. The proposal was yet another example of the party's policy to increase its popularity. "If this bill is passed, abuse in prisons could be reduced to a certain extent," Welfare's leader Necmettin Erbakan told the daily Hürriyet newspaper. The party strictly condemns sex before marriage. But some party members are known to have more than one wife in accordance with Muslim practice. The Islamic Welfare Party shook this secular but predominantly Muslim country with its victory in local elections last March, doubling its support to 19 per cent and winning mayorships in Istanbul and Ankara, the country's two largest cities. It has 38 seats in the 450-member parliament. Welfare has gained huge popularity in slum areas major cities by creating a successful network of charities and businesses and established social and health services.

## COLUMBIA

### U.S. Navy's 'Love Boat' cruise ends

**NORFOLK, Virginia (AP)** — The first U.S. warship to set sail with women crew members turned to its home port today, ending a cruise dubbed the Love Boat because of pregnancies and video sex. An estimated 5,000 people were on the docks to arrive at around 3:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) of the Eisenhower at the end of six month Mediterranean cruise. When the cruise began in October, the ship carried 415 women among its crew and aircrew, about 5,000. Before it was over, 15 women had been transferred due to pregnancies although the navy emphasized that all but one had conceived before leaving the ship. Two others conceived during shore leave in Europe with their husbands, and an unmarried woman also conceived while on the leave, the navy said. A man and a woman videotaped having sex on board and were disciplined and sent ashore, as was a woman officer who watched the tape but didn't report it. Eight other women were transferred for disciplinary, administrative or humanitarian reasons, compared to 22 men reassigned for the same reasons. The navy pronounced the experience a success. "They've made every commitment they've made to make, in the Mediterranean, in the Adriatic, in exercises with NATO allies," said Commander Kevin Wessing, an Atlantic Fleet spokesman. "They've had men and women aviators flying combat patrols over Bosnia and southern Iraq," he said, adding the carrier and its wing "have performed in magnificent fashion."

### Diana revisits U.S. friends

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Britain's Princess Diana is privately revisiting Washington to see old friends and, as she was last time, she has been swept up in the capital's social whirl. Hours after her Wednesday arrival for Easter weekend, she found herself at a Brazilian embassy dinner for the World Bank's outgoing president, Lewis Preston. The Princess of Wales on a private visit to Brazil Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flecha De Lima and his wife Lucia, the British embassy said. She has known the couple since they served in London years ago. Guests at the dinner "were surprised and charmed by the arrival of the princess, who stayed for the entire evening."

The Washington Post reported Princess Diana spent part of Thursday shopping in Washington's trendy Georgetown district. She was Friday at Banana Republic, an upscale clothing chain store, in the suburb of Chevy Chase, Maryland, accompanied by a young Brazilian wearing a striped nightgown. He was Luiz Antonio Flecha De Lima, 19-year-old son of the ambassador, who like his parents, has known Princess Diana since their London days, the embassy said. The British embassy said her recent visit "doesn't involve this embassy at all."

### Gabon president fights rumours he has AIDS virus

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